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ROMAN STORIES:

OR THE HISTORY OF THE

SEVEN WISE Mistresses of Rome.

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To the READER.

THIS small Volume of Tales and Stories *is collected for thy Diversion and Instruction, and may serve to shew thee what subtle Devices and malicious Accusations were formerly laid to attain Grandeur, and gratify malicious and ambitious Persons.*

Here you may observe, that the Intent of this small Book, *(written in an allegorical and pleasant Method) is to promote* Sincerity *and* Fidelity, *and to discountenance* Treachery *and* Falshood. *If you are inclined to* Virtue, *here are Presidents to direct you; if to* Innocence, *here are Rules to instruct you; and if you would avoid* Vice, *here are Examples which set before you the Scandal and Misery which attend a vicious Life. In a Word, you may here learn to despise* Vanity, *to prize* Innocence, *to expect* Death, *to escape* Hell, *and to obtain* Heaven.

You will find the Historical Part *interspersed with* curious Lessons *to please the Fancy, delight the Mind, sharpen the Wit, and illuminate the Understanding. The* Moral Part *instructs the Mind in the Knowledge and Precepts of* Virtue, *as the* Historical *delights the Fancy, and improves the Judgment.*

This small Book, *likewise, by the diverting* Stories *therein, encourages and allures* Children *and* Youth *to learn to read* English; *for which End it is written in an intelligible and easy Style, adapted to the meanest Capacities.*

To conclude—The Names of these Seven Wise Mistresses *are,* Halicujah, Mardula, Circe, Penthisilia, Deborah, Dejanira, *and* Boadicia. *So this* Book *is humbly offered to the Perusal of the candid* Reader, *by*

THO. HOWARD.

ROMAN STORIES:

OR THE HISTORY OF THE

Seven Wise Mistresses

OF

ROME.

STORY I.

IN the great and flourishing city of Rome, there reigned a virtuous and renowned empress, named Lucretia, the sole heiress and possessor of that imperial crown and dignity; who, with the advice of her council, married a rich and glorious prince, powerful, valiant, and beloved of all his subjects; by whom she conceived, and bore a daughter, named Sabrina.

This young princess, as she advanced in years, grew in beauty, virtue, and all the qualities of mind and body, which are necessary to make an accomplished lady, insomuch that she was the delight of all

that saw her, and especially of her parents, who esteemed her as the chief jewel of their crown.

It happened when Sabrina was about six years of age, that a province in her father's dominions rebelled against their sovereign; to suppress which, the king assembled, with all speed, a mighty army, and marched towards them; but the weather proving unseasonable, he happened to catch cold, which threw him into such a violent fever, that his recovery was despaired of. The king, being concerned for his queen, and for the education and happiness of his young daughter, whose tender years rendered her incapable of taking care of herself, thought fit, finding himself grow worse and worse, to write the following letter to the empress—

'Dear Lady,

MY expedition has proved very unfavourable to me; for by the way I was taken sick of a violent fever; therefore pray make haste unto me, that we may consult how to provide for the education of our daughter Sabrina, and the state and settlement of our dominions; for I am without hopes of recovery; and if you make not great haste you will hardly see me alive.'

The messenger posted away to the empress, and finding her walking in the garden, expecting every hour news from her beloved husband, he, with profound reverence, delivered her the letter. The empress immediately broke it open, and reading what condition her lord was in, fell into a swoon, to the astonishment of all her ladies; but so soon as she recovered her senses, she caused her chariot and horses to be made ready, and hasted both night and day till she came to her lord the king. She found him, to

her

her great grief, almoſt dead, and gently preſſing herſelf upon his breaſt, ſhe kiſſed his icy lips, being unable to ſpeak for tears and ſorrow. The king perceiving her, raiſed himſelf in his bed, and with a flood of tears ſpake to this effect—

'Oh! my dear lady, it rejoices me that you are come, that I may impart my troubled mind to you, ſince I am not likely to recover. The natural affection I bear to you, and our daughter Sabrina, makes me conjure you, in the firſt place, to cauſe her to be educated and trained up in all manner of virtuous learning, whereby ſhe may attain to all the accompliſhments befitting a princeſs ſo nobly deſcended. And when ſhe is ſufficiently inſtructed in all that is proper for her to learn as a private lady, I deſire that, in the next place, you will take her home to your Imperial palace, and admit her into your moſt honourable council, that ſhe may perfect herſelf in the knowledge of affairs of ſtate, and how to govern with juſtice and wiſdom your vaſt dominions; which in the third place, I implore you to leave to none but her, who, after your deceaſe, has the beſt right to them. As for you, my dear lady, conſidering you are advanced in years, it is not likely that you will, by a ſecond marriage, bury my memory in oblivion; and therefore I adviſe you to chuſe, from among the wiſeſt and moſt grave of your counſellors, a ſenator, who is able to adviſe you in the moſt important affairs of the empire, and to be a guardian to your daughter Sabrina, till ſhe come to maturity.'

The ſorrowful empreſs anſwered, 'My dear lord, all theſe things ſhall be performed according to your will and requeſt.' Then embracing each other, the king turned himſelf upon the pillow, and gave up the ghoſt, and afterwards was conveyed into his own country, where his funeral was ſolemnized with the

utmost magnificence; after which the empress prosecuting the war against the rebels, soon reduced them to obedience; and having disbanded her forces, returned in peace to Rome.

STORY II.

How the Empress, by the Advice of her Council, resigned Sabrina *to the care of Seven Wise Mistresses.*

SOON after the funeral obsequies, the empress walking solitary in her garden, and thinking of the last words of her late royal husband, wherein he recommended to her so earnestly the interests of the empire, and more especially the education of the young princess Sabrina, who was the chief object of his affections, said to herself, 'Now my dear lord and husband is dead, there is but one in the world whom I take pleasure in, and that is my only daughter Sabrina, the very flower and glory of virgins, who is heir apparent of all my dominions; therefore it is proper, while she is young and apt to receive instruction, to inform her understanding, that she may be able, after my decease, to manage the great affairs of the empire with prudence and justice; to effect which, as my deceased lord recommended, I cannot do better than to commit her to the care of some virtuous persons, who are well skilled in the sciences.'

Accordingly, the empress assembled all the lords of her council, and demanded their advice concerning her young daughter Sabrina; and some of them proposed to build a tower in the royal garden, for the young lady, with five devout matrons to attend her and two philosophers to instruct her in natural philosophy, and other arts and sciences; but some other

other lords of the council differed in opinion, and said to the empress, 'Most excellent lady, it is not expedient that she should be in such a tower, nor such a way instructed, for three reasons—

'First, if she be in such a tower, your nobles and ladies that frequent your palace, by too often visiting her, will make her mind more the pleasure of the court than her learning.

'Secondly, Men tutors are not suitable for a princess of such incomparable beauty; for through too much familiarity, and the weakness of her tender years, great injuries may ensue, and her princely virtue be stained.

'Thirdly, Her attendants being but five weak ladies, might for hope of future advancement, to please the young princess, give her too much liberty in yielding to her fancies, and so destroy the best time of her study.

'But, gracious lady, there is living not far from this city, Seven Wise Mistresses, most expert in wisdom, and resolving all manner of questions, and who, for their great skill and learning, excel all women in the world; to whose care we humbly advise your majesty to commit your princely daughter.' The empress approved of this advice, sent a letter to command the Seven Wise Mistresses to appear before her; they having received and read the letter, accordingly attended upon the empress; who, to make a trial of their knowledge, demanded if they knew the reason why she sent for them.

They answered, 'Most gracious sovereign, we do; for it has been revealed to us in a dream, which was this; we saw a high and mighty tree, whose branches covered all the realm; under whose leaves the beasts of the earth sheltered without number; and in an instant we saw it fall and dissolve; so that nothing

but the root was remaining diſcernable, out of which proceeded a fair young branch.'

The empreſs ſaid, 'Unfold the meaning thereof.'

They replied, 'The tree which we ſaw was our late ſovereign lord the king; the ſpreading branches ſignify his power extending over all his empire, out of whoſe roots is ſprung a young ſcion, that is your only daughrer, who will rule the empire with equity and honour, whoſe learning and education you will commit to our charge.'

'You have ſaid right,' anſwered the empreſs, 'I will commit my daughter to you, to be inſtructed in all ſorts of literature, that ſhe may be accompliſhed, and fit to govern the Roman empire after my deceaſe; for which you ſhall receive encouragement from the royal bounty.'

The Wiſe Miſtreſſes gladly undertook the charge, and were tranſported with joy at the generous condeſcenſion of the empreſs; ſo returning her thanks, they received the young princeſs Sabrina, and conducted her to their noble palace. As they went, Boadicia ſaid to her companions, 'If we now ſhould teach the princeſs publickly, and grant her recourſe to the pleaſant gardens, it would prove a hindrance to her ſtudy; beſides, the Tuſcan knights hearing of ſo great a beauty, might (when we leaſt think of it) ſteal her away.'

Then anſwered Mardula, 'Let us place her in the Brazen Tower, and there we will paint upon all the inſtruments of muſic the ſeven liberal ſciences, ſo that whenever ſhe is inclined to muſic, ſhe may at the ſame time be put in mind of virtue and learning.'

Theſe propoſals being adhered to, the Miſtreſſes uſed their beſt ſkill and diligence in attending the young lady for the ſpace of ſeven years; which being expired, they appointed a day to prove her experience

perience in what she had learnt; which being come, they put the three following questions to her—

1st, 'What is the most acceptable thing to God!' she answered, 'To obey willingly all his most holy commands.' 2d. 'What is it gives the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to the soul of man?' she said, 'The answer of a good conscience.' 3d. 'What knowledge made women wisest?' she replied, 'The knowledge of good from evil.'

The Wise Mistresses hearing these acute answers, were of opinion that the princess would be famous for wisdom, and excel her progenitors.

STORY III.

How the Empress, by the Advice of her Lords, chose Radamentus *her Assistant in the Government.*

IT was about the time the princes of the land and all the nobility assembled themselves together before the empress in council, for the electing of a Grand Consul, expert in the laws and customs of the empire to assist the empress in all temporal affairs, according to the will of her late husband the king; and they chose one Radamentus, a wise and crafty politician, and on whom the empress reposed great confidence, so that whatever he contrived or proposed, she was ready to sign. This Radamentus being thus placed at the head of the affairs of the empire, he grew haughty and ambitious of more honour; and thinking to himself that the empress was weak and sickly, and that it was probable she could not live long, nothing less could satisfy his ambition, than the hopes of making himself emperor after her decease; and knowing the empress had a young daughter, brought up under the tuition of seven wise ladies, and was the apparent heir of the crown, he

was afraid (when she came to maturity) that she would marry, and so frustrate his hopes, and turn his ambition to his own confusion; therefore, from that time he bent his study to destroy her.

Now there was a law, that whosoever was found in fornication or adultery, should die without mercy. Upon a day, as the empress and Radamentus were both walking in the garden, Radamentus seemed to be very melancholly; which the empress observing, demanded the cause of it: he answered, 'Now the realm is in perfect peace and quietness, there is but one thing I request of you.'

The empress said, 'Ask what you will, my lord, it shall be granted, even to the one half of my dominions.'

Then said the consul, 'You have but one only daughter in the world, who is heiress to the empire, and she is confined among stone walls, where she spends the flower of her youth in dull thought and contemplation, when the very meanest of your subjects have an opportunity of seeing and acting the very things, which she (though so great a princess) is only able to imagine; wherefore send for her to court, that you may have comfort of her, and she may see the customs thereof, and have recourse to the council.'

The empress answered, 'My lord, I am very well pleased with your request, for it is seven years since I saw her.' Soon after she dispatched a messenger with a letter, expressly commanding the Seven Wise Mistresses, upon such a day to bring her daughter Sabrina to court.

STORY

STORY IV.

How the Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes conſulted the Planets about carrying the Princeſs to Court—and how they thereby foreſaw the Deſign laid againſt her Life.

WHEN the miſtreſſes had peruſed the empreſs's letter, they retired into the garden to view the heavens, and with the utmoſt ſkill conſulted the aſpects of the planets, to know if their journey to the court would be fortunate or no: but obſerving a great contention among the ſigns, they foreſaw, that when they preſented the young lady, if ſhe ſhould anſwer any more words than *one*, her enemies would have power over her to betray her to a moſt ſhameful death; ſo they were very much troubled all the day; and about the evening came down the young Lady Sabrina to divert herſelf in the garden, but perceiving the Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes very ſad, ſhe demanded the cauſe of it. They anſwered, 'O, madam, this morning we received a letter from the empreſs, commanding us to conduct you to court; but having conſulted the ſtars, we plainly foreſaw that your journey will prove fatal to you, if for the ſpace of ſeven days you ſpeak any more words than one, which is *JUSTICE*; and this is what grieves us to be reduced to ſuch a hazard, after we have had ſuch ſucceſs in your education.'

The young princeſs then viewed the firmament herſelf, obſerved the motion of the ſtars, and found their ſayings true; but ſaid, 'If you will follow my advice I queſtion not but I ſhall be able to bring you off, and myſelf likewiſe with honour.' The miſtreſſes promiſing to be directed by her, 'I ſhall be accuſed,' ſaid

said she, 'by a wicked person, but if you seven will severally speak for me to my mother, the empress each day one, the seven fatal days will be over, and then I may speak for myself, and defend my innocence.'

The mistresses unanimously approved her proposal, and when they were alone, with great joy they said, 'What a happiness is it for us to educate this ingenious lady, whose fame and wisdom willl one day make her the greatest empress in the world.

The day appointed by the empress being come, they cloathed the princess in cloth of gold, decked her with rich ornaments, and provided a chariot, drawn by six white steeds, and in a magnificent manner, attended by a train of pure virgins, she directed her course towards the empress's court.

STORY V.

How the Empreſs, attended by all her Princes and Lords, went to meet the Princeſs.

THE empreſs hearing the Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes were upon the road with her young daughter, Sabrina, ſhe cauſed all her chariots to be made ready, and with her heralds, trophies, and banners, attended by all her nobles, rode to meet them.

In the mean time, the Wiſe Miſtreſſes addreſſing themſelves to the princeſs ſaid, 'If you pleaſe, madam, we will go to ſome private place in the city, and diligently obſerve the planets in their ſeveral motions, for the preſervation of your life.'

To this the young lady willingly condeſcended, and bowed her head, as though ſhe ſaid, Remember me in my neceſſity; and ſo they departed, and the young lady continued her journey.

As

As ſoon as the empreſs met her, ſhe took her into her own chariot, and claſping her in her arms, kiſſed her, ſaying, 'O, my dear daughter, the only delight I have in the world, whom God preſerve for future bleſſings, how is it with you? Now I hope you are fitly qualified by learning to ſit in my throne after me, and govern with glory and honour the people which will be committed unto your charge.' The empreſs, hoping ſhe would make a pertinent anſwer, according to the great wiſdom ſhe had heard ſhe was endowed with, was ſurpriſed at her making no anſwer, for fear ſome diſaſter had befallen her; and then ſometimes ſhe imagined that having been ſo many years learning other languages, ſhe might forget her own; with a great many other imaginations that fear and fancy ſuggeſted to her; but being willing to hear her ſpeak, ſhe demanded what ſhe had learnt in ſo many years with the Seven Wiſe Miſtreſſes. She anſwered, 'JUSTICE.' ſo bowed herſelf and ſpake not a word more.

Then the empreſs acquainted her lords what condition her daughter was in, and ſaid, the miſtreſſes ſhould die the moſt ſhameful death that could be thought of; but being willing once more to try her, when ſhe came into the palace, ſhe took her by the hand and led her into the garden, and placed her by her in the arbour, and ſaid, 'My dear daughter, here is pen, ink, and paper, if you will not ſpeak, write the reaſon of your ſilence.' The princeſs, taking the pen in her hand, wrote theſe lines—

Through learning, which doth me adorn,
I very plainly ſee,
That ſtar where under I was born,
Proves hazardous to me:
And I in bed have lately dream'd
What ſhortly muſt enſue;

I ſeven-

I ſeven times ſhall be condemned
In judgement ſeat by you.

When the empreſs had read theſe lines, ſhe was aſtoniſhed, and being exceedingly troubled to think that ſhe ſhould give judgement ſeven times againſt her own daughter, ſhe wrung her hands, and lamented greatly.

Radamentus, the great conſul, coming into the garden at that time, the empreſs ſaid to him, 'See here, my lord, this is my daughter, the only heireſs of the empire; but ſhe is quite dumb.' Radamentus viewing her incomparable beauty, was preſently fired with luſt, reſolving, if poſſible, to debauch her, and ſo bring about her deſtruction, which was the chief thing he aimed at, but treacherouſly anſwered, 'The young lady is baſhful, madam, at your venerable countenance, and the majeſty of your looks; but if you will be pleaſed to deliver her to me, I will engage I will make her declare all ſhe has learned of the wiſe miſtreſſes. But God was pleaſed to inſpire the heart of the empreſs not to let her go with him, whereby he miſſed his perfidious aim for that time.

STORY

STORY VI.

How Radamentus *took his Opportunity to ſurpriſe the Princeſs in the Garden—and how, being repulſed by her, he conſpired to take away her Life.*

RADAMENTUS, after this, being at his chamber window, eſpied the princeſs walking alone in the garden, having left the key in the door, whereupon going down, he came to the lady on a ſudden as ſhe was contemplating under a tree. The princeſs, ſtartled at the unexpected preſence of Radamentus, began to bluſh, ſo that there appeared in her face ſuch a crimſon tincture, that the malice of Radamentus was turned into a great love for her, which he thus declared to her—'Moſt lovely lady, give me leave to tell

tell you, that the first time I saw you, your beauty kindled a fire within my breast, and now the sight of you confirms the same, which nothing can allay, except you vouchsafe me the pleasure to sleep with you upon this bed of roses, and repose ourselves in the bosom of love.'

The royal princess turning about, with scornful gesture, gave a repulse to his lascivious request, which turned his love to such fury, that running out of the garden, he cried out that he saw the princess with a man under a fig tree, commiting the foul sin of fornication, to the breach of the law, the shame of her parents, and the destruction of her own soul.'

The empress hearing this was struck with horror and amazement, but having recovered herself, she thus expostulated—'How unhappy am I in such a daughter, who in the first place was delivered to me, speechless, when I expected her to be perfected in the knowledge of arts and sciences; and now, when I hoped she was adorned with virtue, she is given up to vice! Would to God the day of her birth had been the day of her burial.'

Thus the empress believed all that the wicked consul had reported: the nobles that were present asked where he saw this. He answered, 'Under a fig-tree.' But,' said he, 'the man, when he perceived me, ran away.' Then the nobles hasted into the garden, and finding the princess walking by herself, they asked, what man had been there with her? she answered nothing. Then the empress seeing she was in the garden, as Radamentus had reported, believed all he said, and in a great rage commanded her to be burnt at a stake; but the ladies, addressing themselves to the empress, saying, 'Gracious lady, she is your only daughter, therefore let her have a little repose, till you better consider of the matter;

it

it may chance to prove a miſtake of the conſul, and if you put her to death raſhly, it will turn to your diſhonour, and we ſhall be reproached of all nations; wherefore let a day be appointed for her trial, and if the twelve judges of your empire find her guilty, let her be condemned in form by the law.'

The love of the empreſs to her daughter, overcoming her raſhneſs, ſhe hearkened to this advice, and committed her to priſon for the preſent.

STORY VII.

How Radamentus *complained againſt the Princeſs, and accuſed her of Fornication.*

RADAMENTUS finding his accuſation ſucceed, omitted nothing for the proſecution thereof; and coming to the empreſs with a dejected look, ſhe ſaid, 'My grave lord and counſellor, why are you ſo ſad?' 'O madam,' anſwered he, 'becauſe of the diſgrace the lewdneſs of your laſcivious daughter brings upon the whole empire; and if you ſuffer her to live any longer, you will be accounted as bad yourſelf; for people will readily ſay, What need we fear to break the law, ſince the law-makers do it? The daughter of the empreſs is a ſtrumpet, and the empreſs protects her in it; and thus through her means we ſhall have vice ſupported and virtue depreſſed.'

The empreſs replied, 'To prevent all theſe evils, to-morrow will I ſit in judgement, and ſhe ſhall die by the law.' Then ſaid Radamentus, 'Be as good as your word, madam, I adviſe you, leſt it happen to you as it did to a lady in Cappadocia.' The empreſs deſiring to know how that was, Radamentus began thus—

The firſt Story or Example of Radamentus.

THERE lived a lady in Cappadocia, who had in her garden a well of ſuch virtue, that whoſoever

ever was bit by any venomous beast, the water thereof would immediately cure them. It happened one day as the lady was gathering flowers, she espied in the corner of the garden, by the side of a little rock, a small stream of water abundantly more clear than the virtuous well; which made her imagine if the rock was cut, there would issue a water more excellent than that of the well; she therefore said to the gardener, 'Procure me a workman to cut a passage out of this rock, that I may have a fountain here; and I will give you charge over it to see it done.'

The gardener did so; but the lady coming another time to see the spring, it did not appear with a current so strong as she expected, so demanding the reason of it, the gardener said, 'The original spring was deep in the earth, and had two ways, one to the well and the other to the rock; but that to the well being strongest, drew the water most, and made the other to be weak.

Then said the lady, 'Destroy the well then, for doubtless this spring will prove the better water.' The gardener did so, and another day the lady came into the garden to see the new spring, and to taste the water, but it proved very bitter; and having it's course through a tin mine, it putrified the sores, and augmented the pain of those that bathed therein; so that all people cursed the counsellors that advised the lady to destroy the virtuous well. Now, madam,' said Radamentus, 'I will give you the meaning of what I have said.

The EXPLANATION.

The virtuous well, great lady, betokens yourself, who governs the people with such equity, that whosoever complains to you, have their grievances immediately redressed. The

The young spring is your graceless, lascivious daughter, who will cause your imperial name to be blasted, and your virtuous government despised: her actions, like the water of the new spring, are bitter, as running through a tin mine; that is, a base and wicked behaviour, so that she will soon break your heart; then all people will curse the counsellors that advised you to let her live. Therefore, great lady, to prevent it, before she is rooted in wickedness, I advise you to put her to death, lest the curses of the people follow you.'

'I will prevent it,' said the empress, 'for to-morrow she shall die without fail.'

When the day was come, the empress commanded her officers to lead her away to be burnt; and as she was led through the city, cloathed in white lawn, the trumpet sounded her doleful funeral, the people ran out and wept, crying, 'Alas! alas! The only daughter of the empress is leading to death!'

Then came Halicujah, the first mistress, to whom the young lady bowed her head, as if she had said, 'Remember me when you come before my mother.' When she came to the court, the empress said with a stern countenance, 'Thou ungrateful and vile woman, how hast thou tutored my child! I delivered her to thee virtuous and hopeful, but thou hast returned her the wickedest creature in the world, for which thou shalt die a cruel death.'

Then said the mistress, 'Gracious lady, the Divine Powers know that your daughter is not speechless without a good cause; but for the sin of fornication, we can all safely testify, that, for the space of seven years, we never saw the least wickedness by her, either in thought, word, or deed; and if you put her to death, only for the accusation of Radamentus, it will happen to you as it did to the Queen

of

of Syria, who poiſoned her huſband through the perſuaſion of one wicked perſon.'

The empreſs deſired to hear this ſtory; the miſtreſs ſaid, the princeſs might be dead before ſhe made an end; but if ſhe would recall her till ſhe had done, ſhe would declare it. The empreſs conſenting, and committing the princeſs to priſon, the miſtreſs began as follows—

The EXAMPLE *of the Firſt Miſtreſs.*

IN the kingdom of Syria reigned a queen of great renown, and of ſuch excellent beauty, that many great kings and princes came to court her, each hoping ſhe ſhould be his. The queen delighting much to ſee juſts and tournaments, a day was appointed for every one to ſhew his valour before her.

But amongſt all the candidates there was none to be compared for beauty and valour to Darſius Prince of Parthia; who performed ſuch gallant actions, overcoming all the kings and princes that were there, which ſo pleaſed the queen, that ſhe cauſed the trumpets and drums to welcome him from the field; and the trophies of his victories to be carried before him, and on the next day ſent for him to the palace, where being arrived, he modeſtly kneeled before the queen, and offered to kiſs her hand; the queen being charmed with his behaviour, ſaluted him with her lips; and giving him further encouragement, they grew ſo intimate, that in a while, ſhe took him for her huſband, making him joint king of Syria with her, to the great joy of her ſubjects; to whom he behaved himſelf with ſuch clemency and juſtice, that he was beloved of all. The queen, for her part, loved the king ſo well, he mutually returning her affection, that there never was a happier pair.

They

They had not been long married, when a letter came from King of Parthia, his father, who lay upon his death bed, enjoining him to come with all speed to him, that he might take possession of the kingdom of Parthia after his decease.

While the king was gone, an evil counsellor in the court, being in love with the queen, intercepted all the king's letters, and informed the queen that he had married another lady in his own country; which raised such a jealousy in her, that she tore the ornaments of her head, wringing her hands, saying, 'O! my dear lord! wherein have I offended you, that another should reap the consolation of your love?'—The king, in the mean time, wondering he could not receive any letter from the queen, likewise lamented, saying, 'O! my dear lady! What is the reason I can never hear how you do, nor how the affairs of your kingdom stand?'

All this while the wicked counsellor intercepted their letters on both sides, and at last invented a strong poison, telling the queen, it was of such virtue, that if she should cause a ring to be made hollow, and put a little of this in it, and send it to the king as a token it would cause him to forsake all other women, and make haste home to her.

The queen believing this wicked counsellor was very glad, and without the advice of any other, caused a ring to be made, as he said, and put therein the poison, and sent it away to her husband. When the messenger came before him, he presented the ring to him. The harmless king joyfully put it on, saying, it was the most wholesale present he ever received. But soon after his finger beginning to swell, he sent for his physicians, who said, it was envenomed with the strongest poisons in the world, and he must cut it off; which accordingly was done: then his

his arm began to swell, and in like manner that was cut off to save his life. But the good king finding the poison began to infect the other parts of his body, he thus exclaimed against the queen—

'O thou ungrateful woman! why hast thou done thus to him who loved thee equal to his own soul? Thou hast done that by poison, which the stoutest champion could not effect by arms! How could thou return infectious poison for the most ardent love? Must I, that won the greatest glory that ever came to Syria, at last be basely conquered by the treacherous force of poison, and the wicked arts of a perfidious wife?——O ungrateful woman!——What hast thou gained but the reproach of all nations, and the curses of good people!'——And saying this, he sunk down in his chair and so died.

Then the messenger hasted home and told the queen what had happened, and that all which the counsellor had told her of the king was false. At which the queen fell a weeping and wringing her hands, saying, 'O what have I done! what have I done! I have, by the advice of an evil counsellor, slain my dear husband the king! O cursed traitor! would God I had never followed thy wicked counsel! But this hand that first received the cursed ring shall put an end to this miserable life!' And so taking a knife, she thrust it into her breast, and instantly expired.

Then said the mistress, 'Understand you, Madam, what I have said?'—'Yes, very well,' said the empress, 'You have shewed me a good example, without doubt this day my daughter shall not die; this was one of the wickedest counsellors that ever lived.' The mistress replied, 'Then you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your daughter's life this day for my sake.'

The Second Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus understood the princess had obtained pardon through the means of Halicujah, he retired to his chamber, and pretended excessively to grieve and lament, and refused to come to council; whereat the empress was much troubled, and sending for him demanded the cause of his grief, and the reason why he did not attend the council. He answered—

'What greater trouble can there be, madam, to an innocent man, than to be reviled and unjustly traduced by every vulgar tongue? All the people know I have the honour to be your assistant in the empire; and as they believe I steer at the helm of justice, they will conclude that I permit vice, and banish virtue from your court, seeing there has been the crimes of whoredom and fornication committed in your palace, even by the empress's daughter, and yet she remains unpunished. 'This will not only be a scandal to me, but to your majesty, whose administration will become an object of contempt to the whole world, if you suffer such crimes to pass with impunity. And besides it will certainly happen to you as it did to the Queen of Epirus, who had such another wicked daughter.'

The empress desiring to hear how it was, Radamentus began as follows—

The Second Example of Radamentus.

IN Epirus reigned a virtuous widow queen, who had one only daughter, whom she tendered above her life. This daughter grew very crafty and ambitious,

bitious, and often converſed with a ſorcereſs, to whom ſhe complained, that there was but one nobleman (who was her mother's moſt faithful and chief conſellor) that hindered her from having her will and liberty.

The ſorcereſs anſwered, 'I will teach you how to betray his life, and then you may do well enough with your mother.' She deſiring to be taught, the ſorcereſs replied.

'When he is walking in the garden, go to him, and if he ſit down, ſit you by him; it will be a provocation to move his ſpirit, and if he proceed, then give him encouragement; but if he refuſe, cry out, he has raviſhed you.'

In purſuance to this advice, this wicked wretch watching an opportunity, ſat by this nobleman, and ſmiling upon him, ſmote him gently with the palm of her hand upon his cheek, and ſaid, 'Come, let us ſollace ourſelves in the boſom of love, until the dark evening.'

The nobleman modeſtly excuſing himſelf, the princeſs tore her hair, and cried out, 'Alas! alas! what ſhall I do!' The queen being at the window, heard the cry, looking out, eſpied her daughter in the garden, crying and wringing her hands; then ſending her lords to know the matter, the princeſs ſaid, 'This man, (meaning the harmleſs lord) under yonder tree, hath robbed me of my virginity.' The queen hearing this, ſaid, 'He ſhall ſurely die.' The lords anſwered, 'It is proper to hear him before you put him to death.'—'Nay,' ſaid the queen, 'I have heard my daughter, what need we any further witneſs? I will believe her teſtimony above that of the world.' And thereupon commanded the lord to be led away and put to death, which accordingly was done. And from that time the princeſs always

ſought the deſtruction of her mother; to effect which, on a time ſhe accoſted her thus—

'Moſt honoured madam, the obedience which I owe your majeſty, both as my mother and my ſovereign, obliges me to adviſe you not to undervalue yourſelf to ſpeak to every mean ſubject that comes to implore juſtice; for, *Familiarity breeds Contempt*. But if you pleaſe to give me a commiſſion to determine all cauſes under your majeſty, it will make you more reſpected, and likewiſe eaſe you of many troubleſome affairs.'

The queen believing all that her daughter ſaid was for her good, accordingly ſent forth a proclamation, 'That all perſons whatſoever, having buſineſs at court, ſhould addreſs themſelves to her daughter.' To the people that came to her, ſhe appeared very mild, affable, and courteous, thereby inſinuating herſelf into her affection; to whom ſhe took her opportunity to ſay, 'My mother is very peeviſh, being ancient, but if you will take me for your ſovereign, I will do you juſtice according to the due adminiſtration of the law.' At which words they were all very joyful, and promiſed faithfully to perform it. And ſaid ſhe, 'Raiſe an army, and ſtand on your own defence, and plead that the ſubſidies, and the heavy taxes are too weighty for you to bear; and then you ſhall ſoon hear from me.' So the rude multitude did as this daughter adviſed them; and then ſhe went to her mother, and acquainted her, that there was a factious people had rebelled, and it was good to ſuppreſs them in time, leſt they ſhould grow too numerous. The queen then gave her the ſupreme authority, in granting commiſſions to raiſe an army; and having told her mother, that ſhe muſt have a great quantity of gold to pay them, the queen delivered two hundred thouſand marks

of

of gold, with which ſhe haſted to her factious crew, whom ſhe paid with her mother's own treaſure, and gave them commiſſions under the royal ſeal; ſo that all the reſt of her ſubjects were amazed, for ſeeing their commiſſions under the queen's ſeal, all lay ſtill, thinking it had been no rebellion.

At laſt this new army advanced towards the court, where being come this wicked wretch haſted to her mother, and told her, that ſhe, by fair perſuaſions, had aſſuaged the fury of the people, and brought them there to beg pardon, which ſhe deſired her majeſty to grant them.

The queen always repoſing a great confidence in her wicked daughter's advice, condeſcended, and as ſhe was going out to ſign their pardon, being conducted by her daughter, ſhe paſſed over a bridge, and a board tilting up, the queen fell into a cauldron of boiling oil, that her wicked daughter had provided, and thereby was deſtroyed.

And afterwards was this wicked wretch proclaimed queen, whoſe laſcivious actions and cruel tyranny cauſed all the neighbouring nations, as well as her own ſubjects, to hate her; inſomuch that as ſhe was coming through the city of Combro, a butcher's man daſhed out her brains with his cleaver.

Radamentus then ſaid to the empreſs, 'Underſtand you, madam, what I have ſaid?' The empreſs anſwered, 'Yes, very well, my lord; therefore to prevent theſe evils, this day my daughter ſhall die.'

Accordingly ſhe commanded her daughter to be led to the place of execution; and as ſhe was going, the Second Miſtreſs addreſſed herſelf to the empreſs, and doing great reverence, ſaid—

'O great lady, if you put to death your daughter for the words of Radamentus, it will happen worſe to you than it did to a lady of Barbary and her lion.' The empreſs ſaid, 'Pray ſhew me how it was.' Then the princeſs being called back, the Miſtreſs began as follows—

The EXAMPLE *of the Second Miſtreſs.*

A Certain lady of Barbary and her huſband having undertaking a long voyage, it happened that the wind proving boiſterous and contrary, they were forced to be a tedious time at ſea, ſo that all their proviſions were ſpent; and having continued without food, till nature could ſubſiſt no longer, they threw dice who ſhould be killed firſt to feed the reſt; ſo they eat one another in order as they began, till all were eat except this lady and her huſband, whom pure love hindered from eating each other. At laſt, having eat all they had to ſubſiſt upon, they reſolved to die together, and ſewed themſelves in one carpet, and

and laid them down upon the deck, ſaying, 'The great God of heaven and earth aſſiſt us.' By the time they were lulled to ſleep by the rocking of the waves, there chanced to come upon the deck a great griffin, (that is, half an eagle and half a lion, ſo that it is neither bird nor beaſt, but a creature as ſtrong as a horſe, and could fly) and took up the carpet in her claws, with the lady and her huſband, as a prey for her young ones, and carried them into a ſtrange iſland, inhabited by lions, bears, wolves, and ſuch like ſtrange beaſts: when the griffin had brought it into its den, and he and his young began to peck at the carpet, which awakened the lady and her huſband, who being a ſtout hero, opened the carpet, and eſpied land, and having his ſword with him, fought deſperately with the griffin, and ſlew her and all her young. But not knowing how to get off from this Iſland, they wandered up and down till the man died, and then the poor lady was alone, and comforted by none but God alone. It happened on a time as this lady was wandering about the wilderneſs, ſhe chanced to meet a mighty he lion, whoſe roaring ſeemed to her like claps of thunder, at whoſe ſight ſhe fell to the ground, ſaying, 'O great Jehovah! who holdeth the power of all creatures in thy hands, have mercy upon me!' And as ſhe drew near unto him, ſhe diſcovered that he halted and groaned, as though he wanted help; ſo ſhe ventured to him, and looking in his foot, which he held up patiently, found therein a great thorn, which ſhe drew out; this done, the lion fawned upon her and licked her, and ſhewed a great love and kindneſs to her, leading her to his den, where ſhe continued for a long ſeaſon, feeding upon nothing but the prey the lion brought her, and which way ſoever ſhe walked, the lion would attend upon her, and preſerve her from all ſavage beaſts.

At laſt ſhe was mourning to herſelf, deploring her condition in living in ſuch obſcurity in a foreign country, whoſe daily companion was but a ſavage beaſt, her mind yearning after her own habitation, ſhe thus complained—'O how hath fortune frowned on me, that I am driven from all human ſociety, and am glad to take my living with the beaſts of the field!' As ſhe thus complained to herſelf, the devil chanced to appear to her, and demanded the cauſe of her complaint; and ſhe told him all as you have heard.

Then ſaid he to her, 'What wilt thou give, and I will provide a ſhip ſhall carry thee home to thy own country?' She anſwered, 'Half my eſtate.'—'Nay,' ſaid the devil, 'if thou wilt give thy ſoul at the end of twelve years, I will ſet thee in thy own country, and thou ſhalt live and flouriſh for that term.'—'God forbid,' ſaid the lady, 'I will firſt end my wretched life in this ſorrowful iſland.'

'Why then,' ſaid the devil, 'I'll make this bargain with you—If you can abſtain from ſleeping all the time

time of your voyage, which ſhall be but three days: I'll have nothing to do with your ſoul; but if you ſleep, I'll have it, as I ſaid.' Upon this bargain the lady ventured, provided ſhe might have her lion with her; ſo it was concluded, and a brave ſhip came, and took in the lady and her lion; who, whenever ſhe laid down, laid down by her, and if ſhe offered to ſlumber, the lion would touch her with his paw, by which means ſhe kept awake all the voyage, until ſhe landed in her own country.

When ſhe was arrived at Barbary, ſhe went to her father's houſe and knocked at the gate, which the porter opened with ſpeed; but thinking, becauſe ſhe was meanly clad, ſhe was a beggar, he frowningly ſhut it again, ſaying, 'Here is nothing for you.' Then ſhe knocked again at the gate, and aſked the porter, if ſuch a knight lived there; (meaning her father) and he ſaid, 'Yes.' Then ſaid ſhe, 'Pray deliver this piece of a ring unto him.' Now this ring was the ſame ſhe brake betwixt her father and herſelf at her departure out of the land; then the porter deliverd the ring to his maſter, ſaying, 'A beggar woman at the gate defired me to deliver this piece of a ring unto you.' When the knight ſaw the ring, he ſwooned away for joy; but when he was revived, he ſaid, 'Call her in, for ſhe is my only daughter, whom I thought was dead.' Then ſaid the porter, 'I dare not call her in, for there is a mighty great lion with her.'—'Though there be,' ſaid the knight, 'call her in.' Then the porter going to her, ſaid, 'You are to come in, but leave your lion out.'—'No,' ſaid the lady, 'my lion walketh where I go, and where he is not, there will I not be.'

Then the porter opened the gate, and when ſhe came to her father ſhe fell down on her knees and wept: her father took her up in his arms and kiſſed

her, weeping as faſt; but ſoon after, cloathed her in ſumptuous apparel, he placed her by him in a chair, and demanded the relation of her travels; ſhe declared unto him all that had happened, and how the lion had ſaved her life, and was the greateſt comfort ſhe had in the wilderneſs; as he has been related. Afterwards, as the knight was going into his wood, to view his young horſes, he met with a wild boar, who ran towards him; the lion loved the old knight, and was by chance, walking under the ſide of the edge, and ſcenting the boar, he ran with all ſpeed to the aſſiſtance of the knight, which the ſteward perceiving, ran into the houſe, and cried, 'The lion is running after my maſter to deſtroy him.' Then the lady ſent after him ten of her ſervants, who met the lion with his mouth all bloody, and they ran back and told the lady, the lion had deſtroyed her father; then ſaid the lady, 'O woe is me that ever I was born! I have brought a lion far to deſtroy my own father!' And ſaying this, ſhe commanded her ſervants to ſlay the lion; which was no ſooner done, but her father came in and ſaid, 'I have met with a wild boar, who had ſurely deſtroyed me, but that the lion came to my aſſiſtance, and ſlew him, and ſo ſaved my life.' When the lady heard this, ſhe wrung her hands, ſaying, 'Alas! alas! for the words of a wicked ſteward, I have ſlain my lion, who hath ſaved both my life and my father's! curſed be the time I was adviſed by him.

The miſtreſs then ſaid, 'Does your majeſty underſtand what I have ſaid?'—'Yes, very well,' ſaid the empreſs, 'you have ſhewed me the danger of evil council, which cauſed the lady to ſlay ſo fine a lion; ſurely I will beware of ſuch bad advice; my daughter ſhall not die this day.' The miſtreſs ſaid, 'If you do ſo, you will do well; therefore I commit you to God,

God, and am obliged to your majeſty for ſaving your daughter this day for my ſake.'

The Third Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus underſtood the princeſs was not dead, he kept his chamber, tore his hair, grieved much, and ſaid, 'The ſtate of the empire lies groaning under the ſcandal of all nations, and is the very ſink of wickedneſs.' And as he was thus complaining, ſome of his attendants over-hearing him, went and told it to the empreſs; and ſhe, going to him, aſked the cauſe of his lamentation: he anſwered, 'O, great lady! how can I otherwiſe chuſe, when I reflect on the great ſcandal that lies on the empire through the laſciviouſneſs of your graceleſs daughter, and cannot yet have juſtice executed on her, whereby we may waſh away the ſtain that remains on your honour and my reputation; the world knows I am your aſſiſtant in the government; and as there is no more regard had to the laws, I have juſt cauſe to leave your realm, and ſuffer you to plunge yourſelf into the deluge of unhappineſs that will of courſe enſue; only the love I bear to you and your ſubjects deters me from it; you know, great lady, if I ſhould leave you to yourſelf, through your eaſineſs in believing fabulous ſtories, it would tend to your utter deſtruction.'

Then ſaid the empreſs, 'My grave lord and counſellor, paſs by ſorrow at this time, and I will never neglect your requeſt, but take your advice.'

Then replied Radamentus, 'I wiſh you would, elſe I fear it will happen to you as it did to a lady in the kingdom of Utergo, who tendered her cat as ſhe did her own life, till at laſt it had like to have tore her throat.'—'Prithee,' ſaid the empreſs, 'ſhew me the

example.'—'That I will gladly do,' ſaid Radamentus, and began as follows—

The Third Example of Radamentus.

IN the kingdom of Utergo lived a lady who had but one only daughter, whom ſhe loved above herſelf; ſhe hearing there was a wiſe and learned woman not far from her own court, committed her daughter to her care, to be educated and inſtructed in all arts and learning.

It proved that this woman was very ſkilful indeed, for ſhe was the greateſt ſorcereſs in all that land, tho' unknown to the lady; ſo that inſtead of inſtructing the child in uſeful and virtuous learning, ſhe taught her the art of necromancy, and in ſeven years time learnt her to transform herſelf into the likeneſs of a cat.

Upon a time, the lady ſent for this learned woman to come to her, and bring her daughter with her, that ſhe might ſee how ſhe had improved herſelf in learning. Being come, the lady aſked her daughter three queſtions, viz.

1ſt, 'What is moſt pleaſing to nature when it is ſatisfied?' She anſwered, 'Eaſe; for when the belly is full the bones deſire reſt.'

2d, 'How far is it to the bottom of the ſea?' She anſwered, 'A ſtone's throw.'

3d. 'How long is the ſun and moon going round the world?' She anſwered, 'Four and twenty hours.'

Then ſaid the lady, 'You have anſwered me well, doubtleſs thou wilt prove a witty woman.' They walking in her parlour, ſhe ſhewed the miſtreſs a delicate fine cat ſhe had; and the miſtreſs ſaid, 'It is indeed a brave cat, but I have the fineſt cat at home that ever was ſeen; for ſhe will wait at table, and diſ-

diſcover loſt things, ſo that there is not the like to her in the whole world.' Then ſaid the lady, 'Prithee let me have that cat.' The miſtreſs anſwered, 'If you will let your daughter abide with me ſeven years longer, I'll preſent you with the cat.' The lady readily conſented thereto: ſo the learned woman departed with the princeſs. Being got home, ſhe told her, that if ſhe would play her part, ſhe would teach her how ſhe ſhould enjoy all the pleaſure the world could afford. She anſwering, none was more ready to learn than ſhe; the ſorcereſs ſaid, 'You muſt transform yourſelf into the likeneſs of a cat, and I will preſent you to your mother.' To which conſenting, the ſorcereſs took her, haſted away, and preſented her to her mother in the ſhape of a cat, being of four diſtinct colours, blue, red, green, and yellow. Then ſaid the lady, 'This is the fineſt cat I ever ſaw.' and taking her in her lap, ſhe fed it with white bread and milk, and would never ſit down to meat, but the cat muſt be at her elbow.

In a little time the cat began to play her pranks; for there was a maid living in the houſe whoſe carriage was civil, converſation honeſt, and who had been a faithful ſervant all her life. This cat could open any lock, and ſhut it again; ſo ſhe would open the lady's cabinet, take out money, and lay it in the way where the maid ſhould find it; ſometimes in the garden, ſometimes in the ſtreet: the lady miſſing her money and having no ſuſpicion of the maid in the leaſt, wondered what ſhould become of it; at laſt ſhe miſſed the bracelet out of her cloſet, which the cat had took, and laid where the maid ſhould come; ſo the maid when ſhe found it, little thinking it was her lady's, put it into her trunk; afterwards as the maid was taking out her cloaths, her lady

lady standing by her, the bracelet fell beside the trunk, and the cat snatched it up in her paws, and leaped into the lady's lap; when the lady saw it she cried out, 'O thou graceless creature? I have found thee out; Have I kept thee so many years, and intrusted the with all I had in the world, and never entertained the least suspicion of thee; who knows what thou hast robbed me of at times? O thou wicked wretch! thou shalt die the shamefulest death that can be thought on.' Then said the maid, 'What have I done; I never offended you in thought, word, or deed, neither wronged you in all my life hitherto.'—'O treacherous wretch!' said the lady, 'Is not this the bracelet I have lost above this half-year, and here it came out of thy trunk! Who can tell what thou hast robbed me of besides? for I have lost a great deal of money.' Then she called more company in, searched her trunk further, and found several pieces of money, which she knew by marks. When they saw that, they apprehended her and sent her to prison for life.

This increased the lady's love for the cat, so that she would never eat of any dainties at table before she had cut her cat the first bit. But upon a time, as she sat at dinner, she happened to forget to carve first for her cat, who thereupon leaped upon the lady, caught her by the throat, and had it not been for the assistance of some at the table, the cat had killed her.

The lady being amazed hereat, said she would keep the cat no longer; and when her friends advised her to destroy it, she said she would not do it for the sake of the learned mistress who gave it her; to whom she soon after returned the cat, and demanded her daughter. The mistress accordingly delivered her to the lady, who took her in her arms

and

and kiſſed her, cauſing her to repoſe with her every night, and in token of a motherly love to her child, ſhe gave her a ring from off her finger, which ſhe had wore many years; but all theſe favours and the affection ſhe ſhewed her, were not able to make her refrain from the wicked ſin of witchcraft, and which ſhe purſued in the following manner.—

There was a mill of the lady's, not far from the houſe, and every night this daughter, when her mother was aſleep, would go with her aſſociates to ſet the mill a going, rip the ſacks, and throw the corn about the floor; at which the miller wondered greatly, and complained, ſaying, his mill was haunted with evil ſpirits, which would certainly be the ruin of him.

The lady adviſed him to watch one night with a ſword and a light, to ſee what it was; and he did ſo; but about midnight came in a great cat, to his thinking, and ſoon after five more, wawling and ſpitting like devils, their eyes ſhining like coals of fire; the miller ſtruck at them, they flew in his face, and in a little time deſtroyed him. In the morning the lady ſent to the mill to ſee how the miller fared; but they found him dead, with his throat and face all tore to pieces. The next night another watched, and in the morning they went to ſee how he ſped; they found him in the ſame condition, which ſo amazed every one, that none would live in that mill. At laſt there came a ſtout fellow, and he would undertake to lie in the mill, if the lady would give it him: ſhe conſented, and awag goes the fellow with a great ſword and a candle, and enters the mill. About the old hour he hears the mill at work to the purpoſe; ſo taking his ſword and candle in his hand, he goes to ſee what gueſts he had got; but when he came there he ſaw nothing, the mill ſtanding ſtill. As ſoon

as

as he was gone, the mill was at it again as hard as before: then he ran back again with his ſword drawn, and there beheld ſix great cats and a little one, with ſuch ſparkling eyes ſtaring on him; that he never ſaw the like before; whereupon he ſtruck at them, and they leaped at him on every ſide, ſo that he was fain to lay about him luſtily to defend himſelf: at laſt he worſted two, and they flew through the window, but the reſt engaged him ſo furiouſly, that they put him almoſt out of breath; at laſt they all flew through the window, and he following cloſe, ſmote the hindmoſt, and cut off her fore foot: ſo when day came, he went to find the foot, but it proved to be a hand, with a fine ring on the finger; and when he ſaw that, he knew they were witches, and haſted to the lady, who aſked him how he fared: he ſaid, he was never ſo put to it in his life. 'How ſo?' ſaid the lady. 'Why,' ſaid, he, 'there came ſeven cats and ſet the mill to work, and if I had not defended myſelf ſtoutly, I had been ſlain by them; but in the end I made them flee, and as the laſt went through the window, I cut off her fore foot, and here it is.'—When the lady ſaw that, ſhe knew the hand by the ring, and ſhe remembered when ſhe awakened, that night, ſhe felt her daughter come into bed trembling and very cold. This thought ſo terrified her, that drops of ſweat trickled down her face, Soon after ſhe went to the bedſide to aſk her daughter how ſhe did; ſhe anſwered, 'I am not well; pray let me alone.' Her mother ſaid, 'Let me feel how your pulſe beats,' but ſhe gave her right hand, keeping the other in bed. Then her mother ſaid, 'Give me the other hand.' which ſhe refuſing, her mother took hold of her arm by force, and found there no hand; then knowing that ſhe was the cat that flew at her throat, ſaid, 'Thou ſhalt die by the law before thou doſt any more

more miſchief. O graceleſs wretch! What ſhame haſt thou brought upon me, having ſuch a wicked child!' So ſhe was ſentenced to be burnt at a ſtake. As ſhe was led to execution, ſhe confeſſed how ſhe had ſtole the money and bracelet, and laid it where the maid found it, that ſhe might be put to death unjuſtly. Being arrived at the place, ſhe was burnt to aſhes, and the innocent maid releaſed out of priſon.

The EXPLANATION.

WHEN Radamentus ſaid to the empreſs, 'O, Lady, I fear it will happen to you as it did to this lady, who, for the love of her only daughter, ſent her to ſchool to be inſtructed in virtuous learning, but ſhe was tutored by a witch in all the arts of necromancy.

In the firſt place ſhe robbed her mother, and would have laid the theft on an innocent maid.

Secondly, In her wicked transformation, had ſhe not been prevented, ſhe had taken away her mother's life.

Thirdly, That horrid murder in the mill.

Fourthly, The ſhame and diſgrace brought upon her mother and family. And,

Fifthly, The utter ruin and deſtruction which ſhe brought upon her own ſoul.

In the ſame manner you preſerve your daughter, and ſuffer her to live in all her filthy and deteſtable ways, till the truth of all things ſhall break out, and then you will certainly receive utter ſhame and diſgrace, even to the ruin of yourſelf and the whole empire; therefore I adviſe you to cut her off while ſhe is in the bud, leaſt ſhe prove in the end a ſturdy oak, and there be no cutting her down.'

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The empreſs ſaid, 'You have ſhewed me a good example; the lady giving her daughter too much liberty, ſhe afterwards would have tore her mother's throat, and turned both thief, witch, and murderer; but I will take care my daughter ſhall never ſerve me ſo.'

Next day the empreſs commanded her officers to lead her daughter away to be burnt, who obeyed her command, and ſhe was led through the ſtreet, attired in white, as before, with a book in her hand, the trumpets ſounding their doleful knell, the people crying, 'Alas, alas! the only daughter of the empreſs is leading to execution. In the mean time the third miſtreſs, named Circe, came riding by; and when the princeſs ſaw her, ſhe bowed her head to her, as much as to ſay, *Remember me.* Then the people gathering about her, cryed out, 'O good miſtreſs make haſte, and by your wiſdom ſave your ſcholar.' So away ſhe haſted, and came before the empreſs, paying her reverence; to whom the empreſs ſaid, 'O thou ungrateful traitreſs, thy coming ſignifies nothing, for thou ſhalt die as ſhameful a death as my wicked daughter, and I long to be revenged on thee and all thy moſt wicked companions.'

Then ſaid the miſtreſs, 'I thought when I came to have received much better treatment at your majeſty's hands, and not to have been accoſted in this manner.' The empreſs ſaid, 'Do you not deſerve death? I delivered you my daughter to be inſtructed in virtuous learning, and you have returned her unto me again dumb and graceleſs, inſomuch that her laſcivious actions ſound all over the empire.'

The miſtreſs replied, 'As to the cauſe of her dumbneſs, I muſt leave that to God, for *he maketh the dumb to ſpeak and deaf to hear*; but as to her being laſcivious, I ſolemnly vow, that in all the time ſhe

ſhe has been with us, ſhe has never appeared to be the leaſt addicted to any manner of laſciviouſneſs; and therefore, gracious lady, if you put your only daughter to death for the words of one man, it will happen to you as it did to a certain knight and his godſon.'

The empreſs ſaid, 'What knight was that? Let me hear the ſtory.' The miſtreſs ſaid, 'I muſt beg your majeſty's excuſe, unleſs you will ſuſpend the execution of your daughter, and order her to be brought back till I have related it to your Imperial Majeſty; which I do not doubt but your own experience will confirm for truth hereafter.' The empreſs complying with this requeſt, the miſtreſs began as follows—

The EXAMPLE *of the* Third Miſtreſs.

THERE was a certain knight, who, travelling through a ſtrange country, chanced to loſe his way in a wood, and being a great way from any town or village, and night coming on, he was not able to find his way out; therefore, being much troubled, he began to complain of his hard fortune in a very doleful manner; and being heard by a countryman, who chanced to be in the ſame place, he, to the knight's ſurprize and joy, iſſued from among the thickets and ſaid, 'Sir, I perceive by your complaints that you have loſt your way, and with your horſe are entangled in the brambles of this wood; therefore as you have a great way to any inn, and the way is bad, if you pleaſe to go with me, I will bring you to my poor cottage, and you ſhall be welcome to the beſt accommodation that it can afford. The knight courteouſly gave him thanks, went along with him, and

and when he came to the countryman's cottage, he ſhewed the knight a chamber, and provided for his horſe; but the knight being troubled at the ſucceſs of his journey, ſat up all night. About midnight he heard a diſmal outcry in the houſe, and being in ſuch a lonely place, began to ſuſpect that ſome danger might enſue, and ſo he knocked to know what was the matter. The maid anſwered, that her miſtreſs was in travail. The knight hearing this, and being ſkilled in aſtrology, went down to conſult the planets, it being a bright ſtar-light night; he preſently ſaw a bad planet going down, and a good one riſing, ſignifying, if the child was born under the bad one, his fortune was to be hanged; therefore he called the maid, and bid her deſire the midwife, if poſſible, to ſuſpend the delivery for one quarter of an hour, and the child ſhould be born to good fortune. But ſhe immediately returned, bringing him word that her miſtreſs was delivered of a jolly boy. Then the knight went in, and ſaid nothing concerning the birth of the child; but next morning the father of it came to him, ſaying, 'Sir, ſince you have vouchſafed to lodge with me all night, be pleaſed to honour me ſo far as to name my child;' to which the knight readily conſented. And when the day was come, he named the child, and writ on parchment his deſtiny; with a charge alſo, that he ſhould pray to God continually to preſerve him from the impending ill fate; ſo ſealed it up with a piece of wax, and tied it about his neck with a ſilk ſtring, charging his parents and all his friends not to untie the ſtring to read what it was, till ſuch time as the child was able to read it himſelf; deſiring them to keep him at ſchool very careſully, whereby he might attain to that knowledge as to read the writing perfectly himſelf;

self; and after thanking the father for the favour done him, took his leave and departed.

When the child was grown up, and fit to be instructed, he was put to school, and very carefully attended till he was ten years of age, at which time he was able to read the writing that was about his neck; and upon a time as he was by himself, he took it from his neck, and opening it, read his destiny in these words: *My good child, serve God, and pray to him continually to pass this fate over thee, else it is thy fortune to be hanged.* When he had read this, he lifted up his eyes to Heaven, and begged a blessing from the Lord, and went home very sad and melancholy, and desired his father to give him a new suit of cloaths, a little money in his pocket, and his blessing; his father asking him the reason of his request, he said, 'Pray grant it, for I will go seek my fortune.'

His father seeing he was resolute, said, 'Well, go, and my blessing be with you.' So the boy travelled into a strange country, still praying to God to protect him from the unhappy end which he was predestined to, and at last came to a knight's house, and desired a service; the knight demanding what he could do; he said, 'Sweep your hall, draw beer, and run of your errands; and I shall be always ready and willing to perform whatever I may be found capable of.' The knight perceiving that he was a hopeful boy, readily entertained him; and he proved careful and diligent in whatever he took in hand; still, at all spare times, continuing to beseech God upon his knees, to avert the sad fate which was foretold him. The knight observing this, soon after made him under butler, and he persevered in the same rule, praying to God continually; which conduct so well pleased the knight, that soon after his chief

butler

butler dying, he was advanced to succeed him; in which place he was obedient to his master, courteous to his fellow servants, and pleasing to all, except the baker and the brewer, who murmured greatly, saying, 'This fellow has strange luck! He was but the other day taken in as a beggar boy upon charity at the door. soon after he was made under butler, and now he is promoted to be chief butler; What will he come to?' But this passed on and he grew in favour still, and his master shortly after made him under steward; which place he discharged with great fidelity; and this promotion made his adversaries murmur ten times more than before: but notwithstanding, he grew still more and more in favour with the knight; insomuch, that upon the death of the head steward, which happened soon after, he was preferred to his place. This so incensed his adversaries, that from that time they resolved upon his destruction; which, however, had no effect, by means of his temper, which was not affected either with pride or ambition, but on the contrary, notwithstanding his preferment, was obliging, humble, courteous, and familiar.

When he had, to the satisfaction of his master, discharged his trust faithfully for five years, he made all his accounts even, and desired leave to see his own country, which the knight not only consented to, but furnished him with horse, money, and all things necessary for his journey at his own expence, as a reward for his faithful service. Just as he was going away, the baker and brewer deceitfully came to him, saying, *They must drink together before they parted*; and while one was drinking with him, the other slipped into his pormantua, a large gilt bowl, and inclosed it again. Soon after he proceeded on his journey, little thinking of their treachery, but no

no ſooner was he gone from the door than his two adverſaries, ſeeking every where, as they pretended, for the bowl, told the knight that it was miſſing, and that nobody could have it but his ſteward, who had often defrauded him in the like manner, though he repoſed ſo great confidence in him, and that he would not believe it, when they had often informed him of the ſame; 'And,' ſaid they, 'if your worſhip pleaſes to ride with us, we ſhall overtake the traitor, and doubt not to find the bowl in his cuſtody.'

The knight accordingly rode after him, and ſoon overtaking him, ſearched his portmantua, and contrary to his expectation and hopes, found the bowl; whereupon he ſaid, 'O thou wicked wretch! I have been told often how thou haſt robbed me daily, and impoveriſhed my eſtate, yet I never would believe it; but now I have a plain proof of thy diſhoneſty, for which thou ſhalt be hanged inſtantly.'

The young man being amazed at this adventure, ſtood up and ſaid, 'Of this fact I am innocent, and thou eternal God, who knoweſt the ſecrets of all mens' hearts, grant me juſtice now; that thy everlaſting truth may take place, and this hidden treachery be brought to light!' But finding his proteſtations ſignified nothing, and they were leading him to the gallows, he ſaid, 'Well, now I perceive that fate is fate, let the world go how it will.' Which his maſter hearing, aſked him what he meant; He anſwered, 'When my mother was in travail of me, there was a ſtrange knight lodged in the houſe, and foreſaw my deſtiny by his ſkill in aſtrology; and at the requeſt of my father, he was my godfather, and writ on a piece of parchment my ſad fate in theſe words following—*My good child, ſerve God, and pray to him continually to paſs this fate over thee, elſe thy fortune is to be hanged*; and ſealing it up with wax,

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he tied it with a ſilk ſtring, and put it about my neck, charging my father that no one ſhould read it, till I was capable of reading it myſelf; wherefore I betook myſelf to travel; and though I obeyed the words, in praying continually to God to eſcape it, I ſee it doth, notwithſtanding, follow me undeſervedly as you now behold.'

The night hearing this, demanded to ſee the writing. The young man taking the ſtring from his neck gave it him; who no ſooner beheld it, but he ſaid, 'O the mercy of the eternal God of heaven, which to his ſervants is incomprehenſible! This is my own hand-writing; I writ the deſtiny, I am thy Godfather, and now I will examine the cauſe more particularly.'

Then calling the two falſe accuſers before him, he cloſely and ſtrictly examined each of them, who at laſt confeſſed that they ſtole the cup and put it into his portmantua, for which they were both hanged, and the young man ſaved.

The miſtreſs having finiſhed her ſtory, ſaid, 'Does your majeſty underſtand what I have ſaid? The empreſs anſwered, 'Yes, very well, by which I perceive that often the wicked commit the fact, and the innocent are condemned. You have ſhewed me a good example, therefore my daughter ſhall not die.' 'Great lady,' ſaid the miſtreſs, 'if you do ſo you will do well; and I thank you for ſparing your daughter this day for my ſake, and ſo commend you to God.'

The Fourth Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus heard the young princess was not dead, he walked up and down the garden like a distracted man, making such a lamentation that the empress was informed thereof; who, presently going to him said, 'My grave lord and counsellor, why do you make this moan? It is not seemly for a man so well accomplished in wisdom and gravity as you are, to break out in such sad complaints.'—'O madam,' said Radamentus, 'why should you tell me so; Would it not make a stone complain, to see that your judgement is so much stupified, as not to be advised by my grave counsel, to suppress such notorious wickedness as will shortly infect the whole court and empire? O that I had died, O that I had died before I came into these parts! for what honour or reputation I ever gained formerly, I shall now receive ten times as much shame and dishonour; and I fear it will happen to you as it did to a lady in Thessaly, with her hound.'

Then said the empress, 'I pray shew me how that was, for my instruction.'—

'If I do,' said Radamentus, 'it would avail nothing; for I shewed you one yesterday, and it had no effect; nevertheless I will rehearse this, which is as follows:

The Fourth Example of Radamentus.

IN Rome there lived a great lady, who had ſuch a famous park of deer, that the like was not in all the land; and having a very gallant hound preſented her by an extraordinary good huntſman, ſhe appointed a hunting day for the trial of him, which being arrived, they rouſed a buck, and followed the chace up the hills, down the dales, through the thickets, brakes, and bogs, inſomuch that the like was never known in any part of the world, for the dogs hunted upon hot ſcent ſeven days together, till all the followers were tired both foot and horſe, and left the whole game to the hound, yet ſtill the buck maintained his ground, and the hound his chaſe, throughout the kingdom of Theſſaly, about three hundred miles an end, ſo that the lady and her attendants gave them both up for loſt. Soon after a letter

letter came from the king of Macedonia, who knowing how much ſhe admired hunting, informed her thereof; that there was a buck chaſed through ſome of his dominions by a hound, and that they were returned again into Theſſaly.

The lady had ſcarce peruſed the contents of this letter, when her keeper brought in word, that the hound and the buck had leaped over the wall, and, overjoyed, ran into the park to ſee them, and perceived that the buck had leaped over the wall, and not being able to go any farther, fell down; the hound alſo through faintneſs fell down on the ſame ſide of the wall, at a ſmall diſtance from the buck.

Then ſaid the keeper, 'This buck is the beſt runner in Theſſaly, and the lady commended the hound for the beſt in the world, which was alſo admired by all the lords of Theſſaly for his good properties; among which one was, that he loved that park of deer ever after, and eſpecially the buck whom he had chaſed; inſomuch, that it was obſervable, he would conſtantly every night go to defend them from wolves, and all other ravenous creatures, of his own accord; ſo that ſuch a dog was never heard of before.

Not long after, the ſame huntſman which gave the lady this brave hound, preſented her with a wolf dog, young and tender, and of a moſt curious ſhape and form, which alſo won the affections of the lady ſo wonderfully, that ſhe loved him as ſhe loved her life; and if at any time any body praiſed him above her hound, ſhe would rejoice and give them great rewards, ſo that her love to the hound began to decline; for he uſed to quarrel with her young dog, they being of contrary natures, for which ſhe would kick him, and much deſpiſe him; but the young dog grew apace, well-featured and beautiful.

Not far from the court lived seven wise mistresses, whom she sent for to give their judgments upon this dog. The first said, it was the finest dog that ever she saw, and he would make a good hunter. The second said, it was the comliest dog that ever she saw, and he would make a very stately keeper. The third said, it was the tallest dog that ever she saw, and would be fit for princely game. The fourth said, it was the strongest dog that ever she saw, and would be a brave companion in a forest. The fifth said, it was the most watchful dog that ever she saw, and was fit to keep a treasury. The sixth said, it was a dog in her judgment that exceeded all others. And the seventh said, it was a dog, that if well taught and kept, the whole world could not afford his equal.

Then said the lady, 'I thank you all for the great commendations you give my dog, and I shall prize him as I do the greatest jewel I have; but I have an excellent hound besides, who, of his own accord, doth watch my deer every night, and preserve them from wolves and all savage beasts, and these two can never agree,' Then said the first mistress, 'The hound is somewhat ancient, and probably will not live long; the wolf dog is young and lusty; and the best of his days are to come; and since they cannot live both together quietly, it is expedient one should die; therefore let the hound be destroyed.'

The lady pursued this advice; and soon after the hound was dead, many deer were lost out of the park, so that they put the wolf dog to watch; but for all that, a deer in two or three nights was constantly lost, to the lady's great astonishment; who therefore set a man to watch all night in a tree, to observe what beast came to destroy her deer. By the

the light of the moon, the man diſcovered the wolf dog upon a luſty buck, having tore his throat.

When the morning came the lady ſent for him to know what he had ſeen, and he ſaid, 'It is even your own wolf dog, whom you put to watch them; for I ſaw him in the night ſeize upon a ſtately buck and devour him, ſo that nothing is left but his bones.'

Then the lady began to complain, ſaying, 'Alas! have I deſtroyed the ſhepherd, and put a wolf in his ſtead! Have I then, through the wicked advice of ſeven fooliſh women, hanged my good and truſty hound, which looked to my herd, and preſerved them from the devouring wolves, and put a ravenous murderer of my deer to keep the park?'—And with theſe words ſhe ſtruck the dog three or four blows with a cane: the maſterleſs cur grumbled as if he had been a lion: then ſaid the lady, 'How now, deer-killer!' and ſtruck him again; but before ſhe ſtruck another blow, he ſeized upon her breaſt, and ſlew her before the eyes of her ſervants, who then curſed the counſellors which adviſed the lady to keep the wolf dog, and kill the good hound.'

Then ſaid Radamentus, 'Now, madam, I will apply this.'

The Explanation of the EXAMPLE.

THE lady who took ſuch a delight in hunting, ſignifieth yourſelf, who delight in virtuous recreation; inſomuch that all the kings of the earth hear of your fame, as the King of Macedonia did of her game. The large and ſpacious park is your empire, and the deer therein are your ſubjects; the good hound watching them is your wiſe and good diſcretion, defending them from ravenous wolves, and keeping us in peace and ſafety from

the bloody hands of cruel tyrants. The fair and masterless wolf dog is your stubborn and graceless daughter, who, by her ill example, will delude all your good subjects, and in the end destroy them as the wolf dog did the deer.

The seven foolish women that counselled the lady to kill the good hound, and let the wolf dog live, are your seven wise mistresses, who daily labour to persuade you to suppress your vigilancy and wise care of your subjects, and let your lascivious daughter live, whereby she may reign in bloody tyranny, and glut herself with the flesh of your people. The man in the tree, who discovered the dog killing the deer, was myself in my chamber window, espying your daughter, that shameful wretch, in the garden, under a tree, committing the foul sin of fornication; for which detestable and abominable act she ought to die according to the law; for if she live, she will, by her scandalous life, give such a base example, as will delude and destroy many others; and if you should correct her slightly, she will devour you as the wolf dog did the lady.'

Then the empress said, 'The dog that the lady loved so dearly, tore her throat at last; but my daughter shall not do so.' And forthwith she commanded her officers to lead her to the stake. And as she was led through the streets with trumpets sounding her doleful funeral, all the people ran out, grievously crying, 'Alas! alas! the empress's only daughter is led again to the stake.'

Then the fourth mistress hasted away to the empress, and kneeled before her, desiring the empress to hear her, who said, 'O thou wicked old wretch! death shall be thy reward for debauching my daughter as you have done. I delivered her to you hopeful, modest, and well-mannered; and you returned her

her again to me ill taught, full of vice, dumb, and a shameful whore, for which this day she is to die, to the disparagement of the empire, and disgrace of all her family; would to God the day of her birth had been the day of her death.'

'O gracious lady,' said the mistress, 'I little thought of this treatment! surely I have not deserved the least of this your displeasure: the cause of the dumbness of your daughter, I commit to God, and in a little time you shall know the reason of it; but as to her being accused to have committed the foul sin of fornication, that is false and not to be proved; therefore you ought not to put your only daughter to death for the words of one single person; for the laws ordain, That there shall be two witnesses in cases of life and death: and if you put her to death for one man's accusation, it will happen worse to you than to a certain queen who for putting too much confidence in her counsellors, had her only daughter cut in pieces before the altar, and herself afterwards stoned to death.'

The empress desiring to hear this story, the mistress said, 'That, madam, I cannot do unless you send for your daughter back again, otherwise she may be dead before I make an end, and then I should talk to you in vain. Then the empress commanded her to be brought back again, and put in prison while the mistress spake as followeth—

The EXAMPLE *of the* Fourth Mistress.

IN the Kingdom of Thrace reigned a famous queen, named Hecuba, who was wise and peaceable, but the King of Lycia being a turbulent and ambitious prince, brought against her a numerous and mighty army. She therefore, to defend

herself, fortified her chief city with a double wall, strong bulwarks, moated it round with a deep ditch, and put therein a good garrison, well provided with all necessaries for a long defence.

The king of Lycia, finding nothing else to oppose him, besieged it; whereupon the queen gave proper instructions to Anthenor and Æneas, her chief counsellors, who immediately assembled the citizens, to advise her to preserve their city, and make their enemies raise the siege: and when they had planted their guards, to favour their retreat, Anthenor issued out with ten thousand men, and made a great slaughter of the enemies, and so returned back into the city. The enemies being again recruited, attempted to scale the walls, but were driven back by the citizens: then Æneas went out, fought with great valour, but lost many men, and so returned to the town.

At last Anthenor addressed himself to the queen, and said, it were good to consult peace with the enemy, because she had lost many persons of honour, among whom were the queen's two kinsmen, for whom they made great lamentation; and therefore he advised the queen to conclude a peace, that the enemies might depart without destroying the city, assuring her, that they could not maintain it against such an invincible power though the city was well fortified, and had a garrison in it sufficient to repulse twice as many. The queen believing these two evil counsellors, who proved the most perfidious traitors, demanded, who were best to go and treat with them?

Then Æneas stood up and said, 'If it please your majesty, and all your citizens, for the honour of the queen, the safeguard of our city, and the preservation of our lives, Anthenor and I, upon so

weighty

weighty a matter as this, will go forth. The queen approved what he ſaid, repoſing more confidence in them than any other, and the citizens alſo were well pleaſed with it.

Then Anthenor and Æneas went forth and founded a parley, and the enemies heralds came and conducted them to the camp; where being come, Anthenor ſaid, 'We have prevailed upon the queen our miſtreſs to ſuffer us to propoſe and conclude a truce with you; but if you will grant our demands, we will betray the city into your hands.' The enemies promiſing to grant their demands, Anthenor ſaid, 'You ſhall give us ten thouſand pounds, continue to us all our privileges and dignities, ſave the lives of all our friends and kindred, and preſerve to them and to us all our houſes, lands, and poſſeſſions.' Then ſaid the enemies, 'All theſe things are granted, and we are ready to ſwear the confirmation of it;' which they immediately did. Anthenor ſaid, 'We muſt be very private in this thing, and make a counterfeit truce with ye, and ye muſt anſwer our meſſage thus—

That you require a hundred thouſand pounds to pay your army, and ten thouſand meaſures of wheat to make them bread, and to ſet up a wooden horſe within the city, in the temple of Minerva. This horſe,' ſaid Anthenor, 'muſt be made hollow, able to contain a thouſand armed men, and when it is in the temple, and you have received your money and wheat, I will give you a ſignal by a light on the wall, and when you ſee that, advance with all your army on the back ſide of the town, and we will open the gates to you: then do with the city as you pleaſe, only remember Æneas and I, and our contract.' Having ſaid this, they took their leave of them, promiſing to make their report to the queen,

and return an anſwer the next day. They accordingly told the queen what the enemies demanded; which was an hundred thouſand pounds, and ten thouſand meaſures of wheat, and they would depart home into their own country, only leaving behind them a wooden horſe, which they had provided as a memorandum, or mark of conqueſt.

Then the queen ſighed greatly, and ſaid, 'What! have I loſt ſo many of my deareſt friends, and muſt I be conſtrained to pay ſo much money and wheat to my enemies, and hire them to go home into their own country! O woe is me that ever I was born! But ſince it muſt be ſo, go tell them, Anthenor, I do grant their demands.'

Then Anthenor and Æneas went forth again, and ſaid to the enemies, 'Your requeſt is granted, according to all that we have contrived; and you are to appoint the day to receive the money and wheat, that it may be got ready againſt the time.'

The day being accordingly ſet, and every thing got ready, they drew the wooden horſe into the city, and placed it in the temple; and the next day drew off from the city. The citizens believing they were in a full march towards their own country, being before much fatigued, made great rejoicings, and afterwards took their repoſe.

But about midnight, when all were dead aſleep, Anthenor went to the wooden horſe, and called forth the thouſand armed men, and Æneas went upon the back tower, and held up a blazing torch to give intelligence to the enemy; who came and entered the town, ſo that all the ſtreets were inſtantly full.

Then the bloody traitors, Anthenor and Æneas, ſhewed them their houſes and poſſeſſions, never expreſſing the leaſt regard for the innocent queen, who had a fair and beautiful daughter, named Prolixene, whom

whom the wicked Anthenor would have ravished some time before the siege, which she resisting, made him in this manner effect their destruction.

The queen and her daughter being at prayers, they heard a woeful noise in the city; which immediately inspired them with a jealousy of wicked Anthenor's treachery: so the queen ran into the temple, and the young princess ran and hid herself in an inner tower, by which time the enemy had left neither man, woman, or child throughout the whole city. Soon after the perfidious Anthenor came to the temple, and seeing the queen there, asked where her daughter was; she replied, 'O ungrateful traitor! Are not thy wicked bowels glutted with the innocent blood, but thou must seek to destroy my beloved daughter! then leaving the distressed queen, he went to the old tower, and finding the young princess, he dragged her out by the hair of her head, and gave her to the enemy, who led her to the altar, and before her mother's eyes, cruelly cut her into quarters, and scattered them about the temple: at this horrid sight the queen fell down into a swoon; out of which being at last somewhat recovered, she said, 'Now, villains, glut yourselves with blood. So tearing her hair off her head, and the cloaths from her body, she ran stark mad. And soon after the barbarians carried her into a strange island, and there cruelly stoned her to death; and afterwards burning her city to the ground, they returned home into their own country.'

The mistress having thus ended her story, said to the empress, 'You see, madam, the mischiefs of blindly following the advice of evil counsellors, by this instance of the queen of Thrace, who confiding too much in the fair pretences of two perfidious traitors, came at last to have her daughter cut in

pieces before her own eyes, herſelf ſtoned to death, her ſubjects maſſacred, and her whole city deſtroyed. Therefore be adviſed, and put not your only daughter thus to death for the words of one counſellor, leſt it happen to you as it did to this harmleſs queen.' The empreſs ſaid, you have ſhewn me a good example, though it grieves my heart to think of it, for they were the wickedeſt counſellors that ever were; ſurely I will take no ſuch advice; for my daughter ſhall not die.' The miſtreſs ſaid, 'If your majeſty adhere to this reſolution, you will do wiſely, and I thank you for ſparing your daughter this day for my ſake; and ſo I commit you to God.'

The Fifth Complaint of Radamentus.

RADAMENTUS hearing the princeſs was not dead, immediately retired into his chamber, ſighing and lamenting moſt bitterly, and cauſed all his apparel and equipage to be made ready, as though he was juſt going to return into his own country: the ſervants perceiving this, acquainted the empreſs, that their lord Radamentus was preparing to return into his own country; who thereupon haſtened to his chamber, and ſaid to him, 'O my grave Lord, I thought you had been more tender of my ſafety, and regardful of the good of the empire, than to go and leave me thus.' To which he anſwered, 'Tis true, madam, I tender your welfare as my life, and you cannot but be ſenſible that your glory, and the ſafety of the empire have ever been the chief objects of my care; but as I have now the unhappineſs to ſee your majeſty engaged in ſuch reſolutions, as will render entirely uſeleſs all my care, and which tend to the utter ſubverſion of virtue, which is the moſt ſolid foundation of all ſtates, I cannot but

but reſolve to quit your majeſty's court, leaſt the world, who knows that I have the honour to be your chief counſellor, ſhould cenſure me as the encourager of the vice and debauchery which reigns, by means of your wicked daughters, in your court. I had rather, madam,' continued Radamentus, with a diſſembling ſigh, 'hear of your ruin than ſee it; for you will be ruled by the words of the fooliſh miſtreſſes, till at laſt it happen to you as it did to a Roman lady and her daughter, of which I could give you a very good inſtance.'

The empreſs deſiring to hear it for her information, he ſaid, 'Though I ſhew you all the examples in the world, and give you all the advice I am capable of, and it tend even to the preſervation both of your life and empire, as indeed it doth, yet you will not follow my counſel, nevertheleſs I will relate this to you, hoping, that henceforth you will not delight to hear the miſtreſſes, whoſe idle fables ſubvert your wiſe judgement.

The Fifth Example of Radamentus.

IN the famous city of Rome there lived a certain lady, whoſe worth and renown was ſpread throughout the whole empire; for ſhe was virtuous in converſation, modeſt in behaviour, gracious to her ſervants, and in reference to the poor, endowed with an excellent ſpirit of liberality; ſo that ſhe had the prayers of all: this lady had two beautiful daughters; the eldeſt of which ſhe kept at home with her; and the youngeſt ſhe put abroad, to be taught and inſtructed.

In proceſs of time this lady ſent for her daughter, expecting ſhe had learnt much for the future conduct of her life; but when ſhe came home, alas! ſhe

she was never the better, which extremely troubled her; insomuch that she, to have her immediately under her own eye, kept her at home, and sent the eldest abroad; which being done, this young girl began to do nothing but play, taking what liberty she pleased: and being at last grown to maturity, she would not go abroad without much money; which her mother was obliged to give her from time to time: but she had ways to spend more than her mother allowed her, if it had been twice as much; for she kept a private lover in the city, and many nights, when her mother was asleep, she would take the keys from under her head, and go out to her lover, and towards break of day come in again, her mother not perceiving it. But on a time, wondering how her daughter came to be so cold, she asked her the reason of it; who answered, the cramp had taken her in the leg, and being loth to awake her, she arose, and walked about the chamber to drive it away; so that the excuse passed for current.

The next night, missing her out of bed, she put up her hand to feel for the keys, but they were gone; so when she came in about break of day again, she said, 'O daughter! where have you been now?'—'Truly,' said she, 'I had a tooth did ach so grievously, that I thought I should have died; and you being fast asleep, I was loth to disturb you; therefore I took the keys, and went to the surgeon to draw it, but I could not make him hear me.' So this second excuse passed as current as the former.

Another time, finding the key of her mother's cabinet, she had another made by it, whereby she could go to the cabinet of money when she pleased. Her mother often missed money, but little thought

of

of her own daughter; sometimes fathering the crime upon the maid, sometimes upon the man; so that the family was always at strife and variance.

But at length it happened, that the daughter going to her mother's cabinet for more money, went away and left the key behind her in the cabinet: her mother seeing a key therein, and knowing she had her own in her pocket, let it alone, and watched behind the curtain to see who would fetch it out; by-and-by in comes her daughter, and snatched the key out; but her mother catched hold of her, and said, 'O graceless wretch! Is it thou that hast robbed me these two years together! Now I have found thee out, O wicked creature! Thou hast been often accused to me, but I would never believe it, till now I see it, for which thou shalt die a shameful death.'

At that time there lived not far off an old woman, who used to give advice to this wicked daughter in all her base pranks, and therefore in this time of necessity she sent for her to come, and by her craft and cunning, to try to save her life.

When the old woman was arrived, she said, 'O virtuous lady, be not so furiously bent against her: she is your daughter, born of your own body, whom you have nourished many months at your breast, and we are all guilty of faults in our youth; therefore let her not come to shame for the first crime. The severe law will forgive a malefactor for the first fault; much more then ought a natural mother to do for a child; and you should consider, if you put her to death, it will be a great disgrace to all her family, and you would be branded for tyranny.' Upon these words the good mother was pacified, and pardoned her.

It happened afterwards, as the lady was walking in the evening in her garden, ſhe eſpied her daughter lying with a ſtrange man under a tree: at which ſight, crying out with a loud voice, ſhe ſaid, 'O thou laſcivious creature! worſe than any beaſt: I have pardoned thee for theft already, and now thou art fallen into whoredom! If I ſuffer this, all people will curſe me, therefore thou ſhalt die.'

Then the old woman came again and ſaid, 'O, good lady, ſave her life; conſider ſhe is young, and what ſhe hath done is through ignorance and fooliſhneſs; but remember the old proverb, *A naughty girl may make a good woman*; and the Scripture ſaith, *He that is without fault, let him caſt the firſt ſtone*; therefore hide her ſhame this time, and if ever ſhe commit the like again, do your pleaſure.'

Through theſe fooliſh perſuaſions, the good lady again pardoned her; but ſaid to the old woman, 'It is very ſeldom that any who are addicted to theft and whoredom, eſcape being guilty of the ſin of murder alſo; for I am much afraid of it.'

The good lady then to prevent this, kept her within doors ſo ſtrictly, that ſhe could not go abroad to her lover, to feed him with money as ſhe uſed to do, therefore he would come and ſpeak to her through the window, from whence ſhe threw him many of her mother's pieces of plate, and other valuable things; which made the lady wonder how her goods ſhould be loſt, and her daughter never go out of doors, any farther than the great window, where ſhe obſerved ſhe ſtood every night.

But ſoon after, the lady herſelf ſtanding under that window late, to hear the pretty nightingale warble forth her melodious notes, her daughter ſuppoſing ſhe had been her lover, threw out the great ſilver cup. The lady perceiving out of what window

dow it came, took it up, and having ſent for her daughter down, ſhe bid her to go and fetch her a cup of wine. She anſwered ſhe had been looking for that cup, and it could not be found. Then the lady took the cup, and ſhewed it to her, ſaying, 'Wilt thou never leave thy tricks, thou graceleſs wretch! now thou ſhalt ſurely die a ſhameful death, the juſt reward of thy demerits.'

The old woman hearing this, came in all haſte, beſeeching the lady to ſave her life but once more, and ſhe would undertake to reclaim her, and bring her to goodneſs herſelf: hereupon the lady pardoned her once more.

But ſoon after the daughter married her lover, (who was a poor ſcandalous fellow, and both a thief and a murderer) without her mother's conſent, who refuſed to give her any portion; whereupon ſhe conſulted with the old woman what to do, having no means to ſubſiſt upon. She adviſed her to take a little poiſon ball, and when her mother called for beer, to put in two drams of it, ſaying, 'That will diſpatch your mother, and then you may have all.'

The wicked daughter joyfully put this advice in execution, and gave her mother the fatal potion, whoſe bowels being almoſt burnt up by the poiſon, ſhe called for more drink, to aſſuage the ſcorching pain: whereupon her daughter put ſome more of the poiſoned ball into the cup, and gave her mother, who, drinking the ſame, immediately dropped down dead; having lived to the age of four ſcore and ten, in the love and eſteem of all good people; for which horrid fact the wicked wretch was afterwards deſervedly burnt at a ſtake.'

Then ſaid the empreſs, 'This was the wickedeſt daughter that ever I heard of: to prevent ſuch miſchiefs, my daughter ſhall not live a day longer.'

And

And ſaying this ſhe commanded her officers to lead her away to be burnt: and as they was leading her through the ſtreets, to the grief of the people, the fifth miſtreſs met her, and haſtened away to the empreſs, and being arrived, ſhe did her reverence; to whom the empreſs ſaid, 'You are come, but it ſhall be at the price of your life.' The miſtreſs anſwered, 'O madam, I have not deſerved to die; for your daughter hath not committed the crimes which are laid to her charge, as hereafter you will find; and the reaſon that ſhe does not ſpeak, is owing to her wiſdom and knowledge, as will be ſhortly evident to all the world: and if you put her to death for the words of one man, it will happen to you worſe than it did to the Queen of China.'

Then ſaid the empreſs, 'Shew me that example.' —'That I ſhall not do,' ſaid the miſtreſs, 'unleſs you call your daughter back again; for before I make an end, your daughter may be dead.' Then the empreſs commanded her to be brought back; and the Miſtreſs, whoſe name was Deborah, began as follows—

The EXAMPLE *of the Fifth Miſtreſs.*

IN China reigned a virtuous queen, renowned far and near for her great wiſdom and diſcretion; who was eſpouſed to a great Eaſtern king, who had a grave counſellor, without whoſe advice he would do nothing.

Soon after their marriage, there aroſe a great rebellion in the king's country, whereby he was conſtrained to go to ſuppreſs the rude multitude; which taking up ſome time, his queen grew big with child; and this counſellor, whom the king left to adviſe her wrote a letter to his maſter, *That ſhe was very familiar*

familiar with a nobleman in the court, whoſe name was Palmedis, *and that he believed what ſhe went withal was a baſtard.* This he did through wicked treachery, thinking to himſelf, the king was ancient, and would be the ſooner inſpired with jealouſy; and if he could kill the queen and the child ſhe went withal, the king could not live long; 'and then,' thought he, 'I ſhall rule the land.'

Now when the king had received this letter, he haſted home, and accuſing his virtuous queen of adultery, he would not ſuffer her to come into his company: then this treacherous counſellor went to the queen, pretended friendſhip, and adviſed her to go in a facetious way, and preſent the king a bowl of wine: the queen, always thinking he had been a moſt faithful friend, did as he had adviſed her; but before ſhe brought it, he wrote a letter, and dropped it in the king's chamber; which ſignified, that if the queen, at ſuch a time, did preſent him with a bowl of wine, he was a dead man, for it was poiſon: and as the queen came in with innocent love, preſenting the king with a bowl of wine, he kicked it all down ſaying, 'Thou wicked wretch! now I do perceive thy vile actions; thou haſt defiled my bed, and defamed my honour, and thou art now come to poiſon me! I ſwear thou ſhalt die the cruelleſt death that can be thought of.' So he commanded her to priſon, and as ſhe lay there ſhe breathed forth theſe complaints—

'*O Fortune, Why haſt thou uſed me thus? I am a king's daughter, and was born to govern a flouriſhing kingdom; but inſtead of a palace with rich perfumes, I am choaked up in a dungeon of filthy fogs! When I thought to be embraced in princely arms, and courted with royal ſalutations, I am here accuſed with ſlanderous crimes that the gods know I am innocent of.*'

And

And thus, through grief and ſorrow, her time being near, ſhe fell into travail, and was delivered of a comely girl: which news being brought to the king, he ſaid, *Take the brat and throw it into the ſea.* When the meſſenger came and told the queen, ſhe wrung her lilly white hands, and the tears guſhed from her cryſtal eyes, running down her roſy cheeks, and ſaid, *Ah! wretched babe! hardly conceived in the womb, before envied, and now ſcarcely born before thy death is determined! And muſt the wide ocean be thy nurſery, the raging waves thy rocking-cradle, the firmament thy canopy, and the jaws of Neptune thy grave! O! then let the god of fortune be thy guide, and the whiſtling billows ſing thy lullaby!*' So kiſſing its tender lips, and bathing them with briniſh tears, ſhe delivered the infant to the meſſenger, who, by order of the king, put it into a cock boat, covering it with green leaves, and launched it forth on the roaring billows.

After it had been for a conſiderable time wafted about by tempeſtuous ſurges, it was at laſt caſt aſhore in a remote part of the ſame country, among the ſands. Long had it not been there, before a ſhepherd coming that way to look for a ſtray ſheep, heard the child cry, and thinking it had been his ſheep browzing upon the edge of the rocks, he haſted down to ſee, and there found the cock-boat reſted upon the ſea ſand; ſo he took the child, and bred it up, and it grew to be the beautifulleſt girl in the world: and the ſhepherd, in proceſs of time, ſet her upon the mountain to keep ſheep.

Upon a time, it chanced that the king her father came a hunting that way, and looking upon her, was ſo ſurpriſed with her beauty, that he ſaid, 'Fair ſhepherdeſs, what family do you belong to? Or are you ſome rural goddeſs, deſcended from your abode.

abode, to keep ſheep for your recreation on earth?' She anſwered, 'I am a poor ſhepherd's daughter, and bred up in yonder cottage.' Then ſaid the king, 'Fair virgin, will you leave your flock, and come to court? where your eyes ſhall be raviſhed with triumphant ſhews, and your ears delighted with melodious muſic; you ſhall drink out of gold, and be cloathed with purple.'

She replied, that the ſweeteſt muſic ſhe delighted to hear was the bleating of the ſheep; and the fineſt ſhews, their new ſhorn fleeces; a ſhepherd's weed, ſhe ſaid, was greater ſatisfaction to her than purple; and a wooden diſh more fit for her quality than gold.

The king being much pleaſed with her humility and ready anſwers, went to the old ſhepherd, and demanded, whoſe daughter ſhe was; he anſwered, ſhe was his. 'Nay,' ſaid the king, 'that cannot be; for her countenance ſhews her to be of a princely race; and if you do not tell me the truth, you ſhall die a cruel death.'

Then commanding him to be led to the gallows, the ſhepherd fell upon his knees, and beſought the king that he would ſpare his life, and he would tell him. The king bidding him declare, he ſaid, 'Upon a time, as I was by the ſea-ſide, looking for a ſtray ſheep, I heard ſomething cry, and ſuppoſing it had been the ſheep that I miſſed, I went to ſee, and there I found a ſmall boat the waves had caſt aſhore, and therein a child wrapped in a ſcarlet mantle, in which was a ſcroll of writing, containing theſe words:

Whoſoe'er thou art that ſhall this infant find,
Make much of it, and to the ſame be kind;
For ſhe to mighty fortune may thee bring,
Being only daughter to a royal king;
Then bring her up as if ſhe were thy daughter,
And thou ſhalt be rewarded well hereafter.

When the king heard this, he knew ſhe was his daughter, whom he commanded to be thrown into the ſea, and ſaid, 'Since the gods and Fortune have favoured her, I have no reaſon to hate her.' And ſo giving the ſhepherd great rewards, he commanded her to be brought home to the palace, and cloathed in a moſt ſplendid garb, making her ſit at his right hand. After that he diſpatched four of his noblemen to the iſland of Delphos, to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether the queen was guilty of the charge laid againſt her. When the noblemen came into the temple before the Oracle, they did reverence, and the Oracle ſpake as follows—

Stand your two hours, and ſpeak not one word, and the third hour you ſhall find on the back ſide of the Oracle, a ſcroll of parchment ſealed up, that take, and haſte away to the king; but preſume not to break it open till you come into the judgment hall, before all the council; and there the king ſhall find the truth written.

Then they did their obedience; and having done as the Oracle commanded, they took ſhipping, and ſoon arrived in their own country. When they came before the king, they acquainted him with what the Oracle had commanded them to do, and forthwith the king aſſembled all his lords into the judg-

judgment-hall, every one expecting a sad doom for the queen; but when the scroll was broke open and read, it proved thus—

The queen is innocent. Her child is lawfully begotten. The old counsellor is the traitor. And the king shall die without an heir, if equity and justice take not place.

When the council heard this, they all rejoiced, and the king sent immediately for his queen out of prison; but the messenger brought him word back, that the queen was dead. Then the king fell a weeping and wringing his hands, saying, 'O what a miserable wretch am I, that believed such an old cursed traitor as I have done! O woe is me that I was born! My child had been drowned in the sea, had not good Fortune preserved her! And now I have killed my virtuous and innocent queen by an unjust and cruel imprisonment, through the advice of a treacherous old villain! But he shall die the miserablest death that can be thought of.' And immediately he commanded four wild horses to be brought, and tying each of his hands and legs to the several parts of the horses, they drew him limb from limb; his quarters were thrown to the beasts of the field, and fowls of the air, as a just reward for his treachery.

Soon after this, the king erected the richest tomb that was ever seen for his queen, and commanded all the lords and barons of the land to appear at her funeral, which was solemnized in extraordinary state, and her corpse was honourably interred in his chapel, and upon her tomb he caused to be engraven these words—

By

By means of a perfidious traitor, I
Have caus'd in prison my good queen to die;
In token of my grief and great respect,
I to her memory this tomb erect;
Which shall her virtue vindicate, and be
A warning how a king's misled like me.
And whosoe'er thou art that passeth by,
Curse him that caus'd my virtuous queen to die.

Then said the empress, 'You have shewed me a good example to beware of bad counsel; therefore my daughter shall not die.' And the mistress departed from her with a joyful heart.

The Sixth Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus perceived that the young princess was reprieved again, he grew so impatient, that every one thought he would have run mad; therefore they run and told the empress, that Radamentus was going beside himself; for they never saw him before in such a frantick humour.—

Then the empress went to him, and said, 'Wherefore, my good lord, are you so impatient?' He answered, 'O madam, how can I hide my grief! The great love I owe your majesty prevents me from leaving you; and if I stay, I see nothing but ruin and destruction ready to fall upon you, for suffering such base and lascivious actions, committed by your graceless daughter, and not suppressed according to law, as makes me ashamed to go out in the sight of the sun: my advice which you ought to receive, you slight; and rather believe the old womens' fables: therefore I fear it will happen to you worse than it did

did to the lady, who tendered her young lion, till at last he tore her throat.'—'O my good lord!' said the empress, 'shew me that example?' He replied, 'I will readily obey your majesty, but it signifies nothing; for to-morrow the mistresses will again amuse your ears with some fabulous story, and then you will pardon your daughter as heretofore. But however at your Majesty's command, I will relate this one story more, hoping that it will have its due weight with you.

The Sixth Example of Radamentus.

IN the Kingdom of Persia lived a lady who, being with child, longed for a young lion, for which a strict search was made all over Asia. At last a nobleman being hunting in a wild forest, chanced to catch a lion's whelp, and sent it to the lady, who no sooner received it, but fell in labour, and was delivered of a boy, in whom she placed her chief delight. She also took a great liking to the lion, whom she also kept by her, feeding it with all the dainties she possibly could get, and the lion would follow her up and down the house, and seemed as tame as a dog: at last he would walk abroad, and run amongst the sheep, but meddle with none, (because he was continually fed with such dainties that he had no occasion to kill the sheep) which made the lady love him so much the more, tendering him as she did her child.

But upon a time, the lady going from home, and committing the charge of her young lion to her maid, she gave him not the attendance her lady did; wherefore he ran out among the flock, and slew one of the best sheep therein, and devoured him.

When the lady came home, the shepherd complained to her, and said, 'The lion has slain one of the best sheep in the flock;' but the lady would not believe it, till the steward came and verified it; then said the lady, 'Alas, if he has slain one of the flock, it is but by chance; for he is a whelp, and knew not what he did; but if we catch him again doing such a trick, we will correct him for it.'

A little time after, he came into the flock and slew two, and devoured as much as he could; and what was left, a greyhound of the house found and eat.—The lion being come home first, and got to his couch, there was no suspicion of him; but the poor greyhound coming home with his chops all bloody, the shepherd laid all the blame upon him; wherefore the lady commanded him to be killed; which verifies the old proverb, *It is safer for some to steal a horse, than for others to look over over the hedge.*

The third time the lion went to the flock, he slew three, and glutted himself with their blood: then the shepherd complained the second time of him, but could have no redress; the lady still pardoning him, hoping he would mend. But the fourth time he fell among the flock, he slew and wounded above twenty; which made every body blame very much the lady for keeping a ravenous beast to destroy so good a flock: yet she would not kill him, nor hardly give credit to what they said; but being persuaded that she could reclaim him, she kept him in her chamber close for two or three days, and he lay just by the cradle where her young son was.

It happened one morning that his wrath began to rise, and his eyes seemed as red as blood; and, walking up and down the chamber, he smelt to the cradle where the infant lay, and at last jumped in upon him, and tearing him all to pieces, eat him before

before his mother's face. Then the lady wrung her hands, and curſed the time ſhe refuſed to kill him. But that did not ſatisfy the ſavage beaſt; for after he had diſpatched the child, he leaped upon the lady, and tore her joint from joint; and when the ſervants hearing her cry out, ran out, and looking through the key-hole, all the chamber was full of blood.'

Radamentus having thus ended his example, ſaid, 'I fear, madam, it will happen to you, as it did to this poor lady, in tendering and ſaving your wicked daughter, notwithſtanding the crime ſhe is guilty of; ſo that when ſhe comes to have power, ſhe will deſtroy your ſubjects, the good ſheep, and after bring you to a miſerable end.' Then ſaid the empreſs—'Surely that ſhall not be, for to-morrow my daughter ſhall die.'

The morning being come, ſhe commanded her officers to lead her to the ſtake. While all the people were lamenting the fate of the princeſs, as ſhe was led to execution, the ſixth miſtreſs, appeared in

sight, and hastened to the palace with all speed; whither being come, the empress disdainfully looked upon her, and threatened that she should die with her daughter.

The mistress said, 'I have not deserved that at your majesty's hands; and as for your daughter, you shall certainly hear her speak for herself within three days, and then all the truth will come to light; but if you put her to death for the malicious accusation of one man, it will surely happen to you worse than it did to the princess of Burgundy, who, by the advice of an evil counsellor, would have put to death her own daughter, but she was prevented, and the treason happily discovered.'

The empress desired to hear that story, and the princess being recalled, the mistress began as follows—

The EXAMPLE *of the* Sixth Mistress.

THERE lived in Burgundy a fair widow princess of great worth and renown, who took wonderful delight in seeing justs and tournaments: and, upon a time, there came several brave princes and nobles to shew their valour before the princess; of all whom, none so much distinguished himself as the valiant Brutus, one of the Knights of Malta, to whom occurred the glory of the day, so that the princess was enamoured of him, and could not keep her eyes off him all the day.

When night drew on, Brutus was conducted out of the field with great honour, trumpets sounding, drums beating, and the trophies of victory carried before him.

The princess was all the while in the palace window, and so pleased with his manly behaviour, that she

ſhe burned in love for him, and knew not how to reveal it. But after ſome conſideration, ſhe invited the knight to a banquet.

Brutus received this invitation as a great honour, and at the prefixed time, appeared before the princeſs in ſuch a magnificent habit, and comely deportment, that ſhe was raviſhed therewith. After mutual civilities, and ſome converſation, they went to dinner and paſſed away the time in complimental diſcourſes, to the extraordinary ſatisfaction of the princeſs.

Now this lady had a beautiful daughter, full of modeſty and virtue, upon whom the knight had a fixed eye; but the princeſs imagining the knight was more ambitious to court her than her young daughter, had no jealouſy upon that account: ſo after they had feaſted together for the ſpace of a week, the knight moſt courteouſly took his leave, and departed home, promiſing to come again ſoon after.

But the time of his promise being elapsed, and the knight not coming, the princess wondering at it, asked her steward, what he thought might be the reason of it. He answered, that he perceived the sight of her little hound displeased him, therefore he would not come again. Hereupon the princess, though she extremely loved that hound, commanded him to be put to death; which was accordingly done.

Soon after the knight came again, and as he was passing through a dark room in the palace, he chanced to stumble, whereupon he said, 'I will never come this way again;' which the princess hearing, asked the steward, why he said so? He said, 'Because the parrot was in that room.'—'O,' said the lady, 'tho' I prize that bird as my life, go and kill him.' After they had passed away a whole month in all manner of princely delight and recreation, the knight again took his leave and departed, promising to return in a certain time; which being expired, the princess wondered at his absence, asking her steward, whose advice she took in all things, what might be the reason of it. He answered, 'The knight has more love for your daughter than for your highness; for always, when he is here, out of your sight, she is wantonly playing with him; and besides, I am well assured she secretly conspires your death; and if she lives much longer, will certainly prove your ruin.'

Then the princess commanded her daughter to be sacrificed to Apollo, and accordingly there was an altar erected before the palace gate, covered with black, and four great wax candles set in sockets of silver, a chafing dish of coals, and a knife for the executioner. All things thus in order, the young lady was brought to the altar, attended by twelve maiden ladies, arrayed in white vestments; and be-

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ing almoſt at the point of yielding to the fatal ſtroke, ſhe turned to the princeſs (her mother) and ſpake as follows—

Dread princeſs, my moſt honoured mother,

I AM brought in the prime of my youth to be ſacrificed for crimes laid to my charge, which the great God I ſhall ſhortly appear before knows I am entirely innocent of, as well in thought as actions; a victim, rather to the inſatiate ambition of a falſe Accuſer, than to pleaſe the great Divinity I am aſſured to whom delights not in human blood. It is my firm confidence, that the glorious God of Heaven, who knows the ſecrets of all hearts, and my ſpotleſs innocence, will in due time, bring the truth to light, to the eternal ſhame and confuſion of the unjuſt, who are guilty of this my untimely death: and then, honoured Madam, your Highneſs will not refuſe to my memory, thoſe tears and that compaſſion which now your cruel diſpleaſure denies me.'

She had ſcarce made an end of her ſpeech, when the valiant Brutus, who was juſt returned from Malta, ruſhed into the palace yard, making a lane with his ſteed among the croud and reſcued the young lady from the knife of the executioner, and bringing her in to her mother, ſaid, 'You had but three things in your palace, madam, beſides yourſelf that I delighted in, and thoſe you have or would deſtroy.'

The princeſs aſked what theſe things were; the knight replied, 'They are your hound, your parrot, and your daughter.' The princeſs ſaid, 'My ſteward informed me that the hound offended you, and adviſed me to kill him. Another time he told me, the parrot diſpleaſed you, and counſelled me to deſtroy it; and thirdly, he aſſured me, that my daugh-

ter had most wickedly conspired my death, for which he earnestly advised me to sacrifice her to Apollo.'

Then said the knight, 'Your ladyship ought to have had better proof in all these cases; and not have relied so much on the treacherous advice of one designing counsellor, whose treachery shall be immediately manifested to you.'

The steward being then called, the knight sternly demanded, if he had ever told him that he was offended either with the hound or the parrot? He answered, 'No.' The knight said, 'Didst thou ever know the young lady, in any one respect, conspire the death of her mother?'

The steward, full of confusion, made no reply, but fell upon his knees, and begged pardon of the princess. But she turning to him in a great fury, said, 'O curfed traitor! What hast thou made me do! I have slain the hound I loved so dearly, and the parrot as I did my life, by thy pernicious advice and now I have offered to put to death my only daughter, through the same treacherous counsel, for which thou shall surely die.' And saying this, she commanded him to be led to the gallows, and hanged.

Now,' said the mistress, 'does your majesty understand what I have said?'—'Yes, very well,' said the empress, 'and it rejoiceth my heart that the young lady was saved; therefore my daughter this day shall not die.' Then said the mistress, 'If you do so, you will do well; therefore I commend you to God, and thank you for sparing your daughter this day for what I have said.'

The Seventh Complaint of Radamentus.

WHEN Radamentus heard the princess was pardoned again, he ran up and down the garden like a madman, crying, 'O unhappy man that I am! that I should come into this country to execute justice, and am constrained to see vice supported, and virtue abandoned!'

The empress hearing these complaints, said, 'My lord, leave these lamentations, justice shall be done.' —'Madam,' said Radamentus, 'I am grieved to the heart for your Majesty, who is blindly led into a snare to your own destruction; for it will certainly happen to you as it did to a certain Queen of the Vandals.'

The empress desiring to hear that story, Radamentus said, 'It will signify nothing to tell your majesty; for I have shewed you six already, and yet you are diffuaded from taking warning by them, by six foolish women: nevertheless I will shew you this one: which shall be the last I ever shall trouble myself or your majesty with.

The Seventh Example of Radamentus.

THERE was a certain queen of the Vandals, who had a very beautiful daughter, whom she entirely loved, insomuch that she could not endure her out of her sight.

Upon a time as they were walking in the garden, the young lady had a bird in her hand, which she would very fain have caused to sing, and because it would not, she picked out its eyes with her bodkin, and letting it loose, the bird flew back, and accidentally alighted on the branch of a vine, which

grew over the queen's window, and ſang for a while very dolefully every morning; which the queen hearing, upon a time ſaid, 'O that I knew the meaning of what this poor bird ſo mournfully ſings, now its eyes are out.'

An old grave counſellor, whoſe name was Memnon, hearing the queen ſay ſo, ſtood up and ſaid, 'If it may not offend the queen, I will declare the interpretation.' The queen commanding him to expound the meaning, he ſaid, 'Gracious lady, the bird warns you to beware that your daughter pick not out your eyes as ſhe did his, and that you cut her off before ſhe come to that maturity as to ſit upon your throne with the crown upon her head, when you are brought to the bar of juſtice upon your knees, and cut off unjuſtly.'

This interpretation diſpleaſed the queen, who rebuked the counſellor, and ſaid, 'This is but a fable; my dear child is of no ſuch nature.' Thus contemned ſhe this ſeeming wholeſome advice, according to the proverb, *Till the time of repentance was too late.*

As her daughter grew up, the queen more and more doated upon her, inſomuch, that ſhe reſolved to inveſt her with a power equal to her own: ſo that ſhe ſhould govern the kingdom one year, and her daughter another; and in order to this, ſhe iſſued a proclamation, importing, that whatſoever her daughter ſhould enact in her year, ſhould be obſerved a law for ever eſtabliſhed.

Soon after the young lady was crowned with great ceremony, and inveſted with the regal authority; but when ſhe had on the royal robes and crown, and all the power in her own hands, ſhe thought they became her ſo well, that ſhe was loth to part with them; and accordingly took meaſures to keep the

ſame.

ſame. For no ſooner was ſhe ſettled in her annual government, than ſhe taxed her mother of high treaſon for the death of her father, and brought her upon her knees before the bar of juſtice, while ſhe ſat upon the throne.

The queen perceiving her daughter's tyranny and ambition, the night following made her eſcape, and thought to raiſe an army, but in vain: for being preſently miſſed, diligent ſearch was made after her, and when they had taken her, the daughter, to prevent her future eſcape, bored out her eyes.

Then, too late, the poor queen remembered the ſong of the blind bird, and, bitterly weeping, ſaid, 'Curſed be the time that I refuſed to take the caution of the bird.'

After that this wicked daughter brought her again to the bar of juſtice, and found her guilty of endeavouring her eſcape, and in one day ſhe deprived her of kingdom, crown, and life, by compelling her to drink a glaſs of poiſon; reigning afterwards ſuch a wicked tyrant, that all the people curſed the day ſhe was born.'

Then ſaid Radamentus, 'This, madam, was the miſerable end of a fond mother! and I fear your wicked daughter will prove ſo to you, if you let her live.'

'God forbid,' ſaid the empreſs, 'but to prevent it to-morrow ſhe ſhall ſurely die.'

Accordingly, the next morning, ſhe commanded her officers to lead her away to the ſtake, which was preſently done. Then Penthiſilea, the ſeventh miſtreſs, came and threw herſelf at the feet of the empreſs, beſeeching her to ſpare her daughter but that once, and ſhe ſhould hear the innocence of the princeſs aſſerted by her own mouth the next day: aſſuring her, that otherwiſe it would happen to her as

it did to a certain rich widow; of whom she offered to relate an example, provided the empress in the mean time would call her daughter from execution.

To which the empress assenting, the mistress began as follows—

The EXAMPLE *of the* Seventh Mistress.

THERE was a certain widow, who had such a great and plentiful estate, that she knew not the profits and revenues thereof; so that she was obliged to make choice of a grave old priest to be her assistant; to whom she left the chief management of her estate, believing she might justly confide in him.

This widow lady had one only daughter, who was the sole heiress of all her large possessions: and the old priest observing the great trust the lady reposed in him, resolved to make his advantage of it, and to endeavour to dispossess the daughter, not questioning but then he could soon be able to defraud the widow of her estate.

Accordingly, upon a time he said, 'It cannot but be very convenient, madam, since you are a widow and I a batchelor, to conclude a marriage, provided you will cut off the intail, and disinherit your daughter, which will make her more dutiful to us, knowing she must depend on our favour, and after our decease will bequeath it to her again.'

The widow thinking he had counselled her for the best, being of an easy temper, approved this advice and disinherited her own child, and then asked the old man to be as good as his promise; who said, 'I will marry you, madam, if you will assign the estate over to me: and I will be careful of your daughter, loving to you, and govern with all justice; and next May-day shall be the time.

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The widow repoſed ſuch great confidence in him, that ſhe made over all her eſtate to him, which being done, he neither regarded the young lady nor the widow; who, at the time appointed, required of him to marry her; but the equivocating prieſt anſwered, that he was ready to marry her if ſhe had procured herſelf a huſband; 'Why,' ſaid the widow, 'will you not be my huſband?'—'No,' replied he, 'I promiſed but to marry you, not to be your huſband.'

At this the widow wrung her hands, exclaimed bitterly againſt her own fatal credulity, and the treachery of the prieſt, and going out wept grievouſly, ſaying, 'This hand which aſſigned my eſtate from my own daughter to that perfidious villain ſhall now end my miſerable life.' And ſaying this ſhe ſtabbed herſelf, and fell down dead.

As for her poor daughter, ſhe being turned out of doors by this treacherous prieſt, deſtitute of the proper conveniencies of life, ran diſtracted and periſhed in the fields.'

Then ſaid the miſtreſs, 'Underſtand you, madam, what I have ſaid?'—'Yes, very well,' ſaid the empreſs. The miſtreſs replied, 'I hope then your majeſty will be aware of your old counſellor, who, in like manner, labours to cut off your only daughter, and after to ruin you, that he may reign lord and emperor.'—

'You have ſhewed me a good example,' ſaid the empreſs, 'and it grieves my heart to hear that it proved ſo fatal to the widow and her daughter. I promiſe you that my daughter ſhall not die this day, and I ſhall rejoice exceedingly to hear her ſpeak tomorrow.'

'By the aſſiſtance of God,' replied the miſtreſs, your majeſty ſhall then hear her ſpeak; and I doubt

not

not but she will decide the controversy betwixt Radamentus and us, to the satisfaction of your majesty and all the world.

How Sabrina, *the Empress's Daughter, complained of* Radamentus, *and defended herself.*

SOON after, all the Seven Wise Mistresses consulted in what manner they should attend the princess to the palace; who being present, said, 'Take no heed what I shall say, for I am provided already.' This rejoiced them all; and they cloathed her in cloth of gold; and when the time drew nigh, put her in a stately chariot, drawn by six milk-white steeds, themselves riding in coaches before the chariot,

riot, the Roman banners diſplayed, and all ſorts of muſic playing.

The empreſs hearing the melody, came out to meet them; and as ſoon as the princeſs ſaw her ſhe fell upon her knees and ſaid, 'Hail! my moſt dear and moſt honoured mother!'

Overjoyed to hear her ſpeak, the empreſs embraced her in her arms, and kiſſed her; and having conducted her into the palace, the princeſs began to declare how Radamentus had attempted to ſeduce her in the garden, which not being able to effect, he had accuſed her of committing fornication with a ſtrange man under a fig tree; concluding that what had made her more unhappy under that wicked charge, was, that by her knowledge in the ſtars, foreſeeing, that if ſhe ſpoke any more than one word within the ſpace of ſeven days, ſhe ſhould die a ſhameful death, ſhe durſt not open her mouth in her own vindication.

The princeſs then accuſed Radamentus of committing fornication, with a pretended gentleman of his bed chamber, who being brought, and the princeſs inſiſting to have his ſex examined, confeſſed himſelf a woman.

Radamentus remaining ſilent and in confuſion, the empreſs turning to him, full of indignation, ſaid, 'Wicked wretch! was not thy concubine ſufficient to ſatisfy thy depraved appetite, but thou muſt attempt to debauch my only daughter.'

Then Radamentus fell to the ground, and begged pardon; but the empreſs ſaid, 'O ungrateful traitor! thou imploreſt mercy, but ſhalt find none; for the rigour of the law ſhall be executed upon thee, to a ſhameful death; as thou haſt deſerved.' Then turning to the princeſs, 'My dear daughter,' ſaid ſhe, 'I am entirely convinced of thy innocence,

and

and that I may be a further witness of thy wisdom and knowledge, I desire to hear an example suitable to the present circumstance, and then I will give sentence according to law upon the traitor Radamentus.'

'Then silence being commanded the princess, in obedience to her mother, began as follows—

The Example of SABRINA, the Empress's Daughter.

IN Bulgaria reigned a mighty queen, who had but one only daughter, whom she committed to the care of a wise mistress, to be educated and instructed in all manner of virtuous learning; where having been a considerable time, her mother had a desire to see her, and sent a letter to the mistress to bring her home.

This being accordingly done, the young lady appeared to her mother, and every one who beheld her found her so expert in learning, gracious in behaviour, and courteous to all, that the queen exceedingly rejoiced in her.

It happened on a time, as the princess waited at table on her mother, the queen beheld upon the wall the shadow of a hand, that wrote three lines in an unknown tongue, which she desiring to know the meaning of, the princess offered to explain the same, if the queen would not be offended. She declaring she would not, the young lady spake as follows—

'Most honoured mother, this writing signifies that I shall become a mighty princess, and shall be honoured of all people; especially my own mother, who shall bring me a glass of wine, and bow three times, and kneel at the delivery of it.'

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The queen enraged at this interpretation, said, 'Thou shalt never have such honour and service of me.' Then she commanded her servants to carry her into a distant forest, and after they had killed her to bring her heart for a pledge of her death.

The servants obeyed, but having compassion on so admirable a young lady, when they came to the forest, agreed to kill some wild beast, and carry the heart to the queen; and to put the princess in a hollow tree, and so to leave her to the care of Divine Providence.

This was no sooner agreed on, than they espied a young wild boar asleep under a large tree, which one of them ascending, stooped down, and having cut his throat, the rest drew near, and taking out his heart, carried it to the queen, who said, insultingly, believing it was her daughter's, 'Prophecy sometimes proves not true.'

The next morning, a knight of Trazebond hunting in that forest, espied the princess in a hollow tree. Her noble appearance and majestic countenance immediately confirmed him, that she was of royal extraction; and therefore, well pleased with his prize, he took her out and carried her into his own country, and gave her attendants suitable to her supposed birth, which she thought fit not to declare, lest she should again fall into the hands of her cruel mother.

The young lady, under the tuition of the knight, soon improved so much in beauty, wit, and learning, that fame sounded her praise all over Trazebond, insomuch, that the emperor thereof, who was a young prince, came to see her at the knight's house.

No sooner did he set his eyes on her, but he was enamoured of her, and after dinner, having danced with her, he married her, and brought her home

with

with great pomp and ſolemnity to his palace, and crowned her empreſs.

Three years ſhe lived thus with her huſband, the emperor, in all manner of ſplendor and happineſs, at the end of which, the emperor dying, ſhe was crowned ſole empreſs of Trazebond, as her huſband had willed.

Arriving now at the full height of glory, ſhe applied herſelf to the ſtudy of aſtrology for her private diverſion; and on a time, by the configuration of the ſtars, ſhe obſerved, that the Prince of Moravia had invaded her mother's dominions, to deprive her both of crown and dignity, and baniſh her out of her own country.

The generous princeſs laying to heart her mother's afflictions, (for pure good-nature will never be totally loſt) raiſed a mighty army, and marched towards her mother's country, who was preſently informed thereof, to her great joy and ſurpriſe, knowing ſhe had never any correſpondence with her: wherefore ſhe went to meet her, and coming before the empreſs, ſhe fell upon her knees and ſaid, 'O great empreſs! have I merited ſo ſignal a favour of your moſt excellent Majeſty, as that you ſhould come in perſon to preſerve me in my dominions?'

The empreſs affectionately took her up, and conducted her to the place where ſhe had taken up her court; where being come, the queen preſented the empreſs with a bowl of wine, and bowing three times, kneeled to preſent it.

The empreſs then commanding her ſervants to depart the room, aſked the queen, what became of the daughter ſhe was informed ſhe once had; deſiring her to tell her freely.

The queen then, without concealing any thing, told the empreſs, as has been related, of the hand-writing,

writing, of her daughter's interpretation, and of her own cruelty thereupon, excusing herself, that she apprehended the explanation to proceed from presumption and ambition, and that her daughter would dethrone her, and make her her vassal.

Then said the empress, 'You see, madam, that 'tis in vain to strive against the will of Heaven; for to keep your majesty no longer in suspence, I am the same daughter whom you so cruelly doomed to die, being preserved by Providence to support your crown and dignity.

The queen astonished at this declaration, fell down before the empress, begging her pardon; the empress took her up, and dutifully kneeling, requested her blessing; after which she arose, and said, 'Now you shall find, madam, that my glory and exaltation serves only to restore your honour, and support your dignity; I will always act as becomes a dutiful daughter to an affectionate mother.

The queen, transported with joy, blest the time of the birth of such a daughter; and desiring to hear by what means she was preserved, and arrived to such dignity, the empress told her, how the servants sent to kill her, had preserved her in a hollow tree, carrying to her the heart of a boar; how the knight had found her, and carried her to Trebazond; and lastly how the emperor fell in love with and married her, as has been related.

Soon after the queen and princess were met by the tyrannical Prince of Moravia, with a great army, a bloody battle ensued, wherein the prince was totally discomfited, and slain in the pursuit; and all the princes and lords of the country paid their profound homage to their rightful sovereign, with the utmost joy and triumph, and soon after the empress united Moravia to the dominions of her mother; through which having

ing eſtabliſhed a firm and laſting tranquility, and received the congratulations of all the neighbouring potentates, ſhe returned with great honour and glory into her own territories.'

How the Empreſs reſigned her Dignity, and cauſed her Daughter Sabrina *to be crowned Empreſs.*

THE Princeſs Sabrina, having thus ended her example to the applauſe of all preſent, proceeded to apply it to the caſe in hand, and to aſſure her mother the empreſs of her inviolable duty and obedience; which ſhe did in ſo admirable a manner, that the empreſs, no longer able to contain her great joy, affectionately embraced her, and then placed her in a chair of ſtate on her right hand, and made the following ſpeech to the princeſs, in the hearing of them all—

My dear Daughter,

'Tis not without the greateſt joy and ſatisfaction, that I have received this pregnant proof of your innocence and wit. And ſeeing it hath pleaſed the Divine Powers to bleſs you with ſuch graces of mind, I now firmly reſolve to quit to you my throne, and betake myſelf to a peaceful retirement from all the troubles of a crown, and the noiſe and hurry of human life.

I am very well ſatisfied by the example you have ſhewn me, of your ability to govern the empire, and to ſit in the glorious throne of judgment, which ſo many

many of your noble anceſtors have poſſeſſed; to you, therefore I commit the care and welfare of my people, which henceforth are no longer mine, but yours.

Then the empreſs turning to the nobles made a ſpeech to them in the following terms—

My lords and Counſellors,

I cannot doubt that you entirely approve my reſolution, and are as well pleaſed with it as myſelf. You are not inſenſible that my daughter is the only heir of my dominions; and as I cannot live a long time, ſhe will be your empreſs but a little while ſooner than you might have expected.

I am quite tired with the fatigue of government, and as I have lived a great while, and ſeen many days of proſperity as well as adverſity, I cannot but think it my concern to lay down my earthly diadem, to fit myſelf without interruption for a better in Heaven. Nor will you, my lords, envy me the ſatisfaction to ſee the crown, by an equal and juſt adminiſtration, flouriſh on the head of my daughter before I go to the grave; and I queſtion not that you will every one of you contribute all in his power to the advancement of her honour and glory, and the public good.'

Then the lords drew up an addreſs to the empreſs as follows—

'Moſt gracious empreſs,

WITH hearts full of gratitude we beg leave to return you our moſt humble thanks for graciouſly condeſcending to acquaint us with your imperial majeſty's will and pleaſure of reſigning to your princely daughter the imperial ſcepter, which you ſo long and ſo gloriouſly have ſwayed.

As we have all along had the honour to acquit our-

ourselves as the most obedient and faithful subjects to so gracious a sovereign, so we shall not now scruple to give your imperial majesty the most signal demonstration of our duty, by our entire submission to your majesty's choice and resignation; grounded on motives so glorious to your imperial majesty.

We beg leave, however, to add, that it would be with extreme reluctance that we should part with your majesty's gentle and gracious administration, were we not assured that your majesty's worthy successor will think it her glory to tread in your steps, and after your illustrious example, make the welfare and happiness of all her people her chief care and study.'

The empress after this, suspending the execution of Radamentus, for his greater mortification, fixed the day of coronation; which being come, the princess Sabrina was crowned empress with the greatest solemnity and magnificence: and all the nobles and magistrates being assembled to swear homage and allegiance, they were introduced with great pomp and ceremony; and having taken the usual oaths, the new empress in the presence of them all, thus harangued her mother.

'Most honoured mother,

Notwithstanding it hath been your most gracious will and pleasure to confer upon me the imperial dignity, before your majesty's decease, which my ambition never aspired to: yet, ever dear and honoured madam, the name and authority shall not depart from you while you live.

I will take upon me, madam, to determine all affairs of difficulty and trouble, that I may ease your majesty

majeſty of the burden of a crown; but you ſhall have the glory and honour of it; and I ſhall ever think it my duty to reſpect and obey your ſacred and imperial majeſty, both as my ſovereign and my mother.'

Theſe expreſſions were received with applauſe by the nobles, and the acclamations of all the people, among whom nothing was heard but joyful ſhouts of *Long live the empreſs Sabrina.*

How Radamentus *and his Concubine were ſentenced to Death, and accordingly executed.*

WHEN the ſolemnity of the coronation was thus over, the new empreſs aſſembled all the judges and counſellors in the judgment-hall; where being ſat in her imperial robes, together with her mother, upon the throne, Radamentus and his concubine were led into the hall to the bar of juſtice; and then the young empreſs ſpake as follows—

'My lords, our loving counſellors, and judges,

YOU have already heard the indictment of the two infamous priſoners at the bar, and their confeſſion of all that has been laid to their charge; for which reaſon it might ſeem needleſs to ſay any thing more to convince you of what you ought to do to ſatisfy offended juſtice and injured innocence: but leſt the great ſcandal and danger I have been ſo lately delivered from, ſhould make evil impreſſions on the minds of any of our good ſubjects, I hold myſelf obliged to ſtate the matter to you in its true light—The criminal before us obſerving that her majeſty,

ty, my ever honored mother, reposed a great confidence in his counsels, meditated no less than my death, and to dethrone the empress, to make way for himself to reign, persuaded my mother to send for me home from the care of the seven mistresses, not questioning but he should find some pretence to bring about his devilish purpose.

Before I set out, having consulted the stars, I plainly saw that if I spoke two words to any body in the term of seven days, I should surely die a shameful death. Being however obliged to go, the prisoner at the bar attempted to seduce me to the hateful sin of fornication: but all his wicked arts proving ineffectual, and believing I could not speak for myself, he accused me of committing the very crime I had justly resisted, with a stranger in the palace garden.

To omit nothing that might conduce to my destruction, I being reprieved seven times by the mercy of my ever honoured mother, through the persuasions of my famous mistresses, he collected seven pernicious examples, which day by day he told her majesty, to induce her to put me to death.

The seven hateful days being happily over, the eighth I spake for myself, and having confuted the malicious and traiterous slanders of this perjured wretch; and cleared my innocence in the face of mankind.

Thus, my lords, is the prisoner at the bar guilty of high treason and false accusation, besides which it is evident, that he has kept a private concubine in man's apparel, as has been confessed, who is also at the bar, and was his adviser in all his hellish attempts, to impute to me, an innocent virgin, the henious crimes which he daily committed in his private chamber; by which means I have been se-

ven

ven times led to the place of execution, to be burnt, as the moſt infamous criminal.

Therefore, moſt gracious mother, as you are the ſole governeſs of this mighty empire, foraſmuch as I willl not own the general name in your life, all you the lords and barons of my privy counſel, and you my grave and learned lords and judges, of you I demand the juſtice upon the traitor convicted at the bar, and upon his concubine, through whoſe horrid treaſons I and the whole empire have been in ſuch manifeſt perils.'

Then Radamentus ſtood up, and pleaded his former ſervices, viz. That he had concluded a peace with the King of Gaul, twice with the King of Naples, and once with the Emperor of Greece; in which ſervices having always, as he ſaid, proved himſelf a faithful miniſter, he implored the mercy of the empreſs and the court; or that he might be only baniſhed, or impriſoned during life. But the young princeſs rejecting all his prayers, and inſiſting that the traitor might be made an example to poſterity, the judges, after conſultation, ſaid to Radamentus—

'As to the ſervices by you pleaded, granting them to be faithfully performed, you have not done more than you were obliged to by your duty as a ſubject, and by the great truſt our moſt gracious ſovereign repoſed in you: beſides, it was very requiſite that you ſhould recommend yourſelf by ſome faithful ſervices to her majeſty's eſteem, to be the better able to bring about your helliſh conſpiracies and treaſons. The court therefore can aſcribe no merit to you from any of your paſt actions; at leaſt, none ſufficient to withold the hand of juſtice, and to balance the moſt horrid crimes you ſtand convicted of: they therefore unanimouſly find themſelves

obliged to pronounce upon you and your concubine, who has been accessary to all your treasons, the following sentence—

SENTENCE.

That you shall both be taken away from this place, to the place from whence you came, and thence be drawn at two horses tails through the city to the place of execution, and there, under the common gallows, be consumed to ashes.

The sentence being pronounced, the court broke up, and the criminals carried to the prison from whence they were brought, and seven days after, were both tied to the horses' tails, and so dragged through

through the streets, where multitudes of people flocked to see them; every one rejoicing, and crying out, 'Behold the traitors! Behold the horrid traitors!'

In this manner they were brought to the common gallows, where a stake was provided, to which they were bound back to back; and the fire being ready to be kindled, Radamentus, addressing himself to the people, began his confession thus—

Good people,

BEHOLD in the person of the wretched Radamentus, an instance of the vicissitudes of fortune! It was but the other day you beheld me seated in glory and grandeur, the second person in the empire, and now you perceive me reduced to the state of the most miserable person in the nation, despised and hated by all, pitied by none, and led to the most shameful and ignominious death; which, however, I must confess, is but just upon me; for in the time I governed this nation, I have sentenced to death great numbers of innocent persons to enjoy their estates, who were executed upon this very post. I moreover sentenced to death my uncle, signed the warrant for my younger brother's execution; by which cruelties I broke my mother's heart. And lastly I have pleaded seven days incessantly, with a traitorous intention, for the destruction of the imperial princess; for which, and all my other evil actions, the Divine vengeance has at last overtaken me, as you see.'

As soon as he had said this, the fire was kindled; as the flame began to rise, the people heard a great and lamentable voice, crying, 'Radamentus is coming!

ing! make room! the great Radamentus is coming!' And no sooner were these words spoken, but his body vanished from the stake, and his concubine consumed in the flame.

Thus hated and unpitied of all men, perished the traitor Radamentus, as a just example to all vile counsellors and false accusers.

The Death of the old Empress—her Burial and Epitaph —the Gauls *invade the Empire and are overthrown.*

THE new empress having thus out-lived her mortal enemy, began a most happy and glorious reign; and by her affectionate duty to her mother, her impartial administration of justice, her facetious temper, and her great wisdom and penetration she attracted the admiration and love of every one.

Her mother lived to observe, with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction, her daughter admired and feared over all the neighbouring nations, for her wit and beauty; and that every day ushered in for her something more glorious than the preceding; and then in the midst of a flourishment state she died, leaving her beloved Sabrina sole Empress of the Roman Empire; who, having provided every thing to solemnize the funeral with the utmost magnificence, interred her mother in a noble monument purposely erected; on which was engraved the following,

EPITAPH.

EPITAPH.

Within this monument interred lies,
The glorious mother of Sabrina wise;
Whose power and impartial justice made
The good rejoice, and wicked men afraid;
She liv'd to triumph oe'r her enemies.
And all the wicked arts and fallacies
That Radamentus used to betray
And take Sabrina's precious life away;
For time and fortune favoured her at last.
Whose life was sav'd and Radamentus cast.

The young empress, having thus pompously interred her mother, applied her whole study for the welfare and prosperity of all her people, with so much diligence and success, that kings and princes came from remote parts to pay their respects to such an excellent lady, and be witnesses of her wit and grandeur. She encouraged all manner of useful arts and learning, and particularly the naturalists; of whom she learned the nature of birds, beasts, herbs, and all kinds of creatures, both animal and vegetable.

About this time the Gauls, a barbarous and faithless nation, innured to blood and unjust invasions, made excursions into the rich dominions of the empress; not to revenge any injury or affront, but merely out of an unjust principle to rob and plunder.

To repel those barbarians, the empress assembled a great army upon the frontiers: a bloody battle ensued, which continued three hours with doubtful success. At last, her General Gorgen being arrived in the army of the empress, soon decided the con-

troverſy in favour of the valiant Romans; fighting ſo courageouſly, that he made lines through the army of the Gauls, and at that time totally routed them.

The Gauls being thus put to flight, and driven into their own country, the empire enjoyed a glorious and undiſturbed tranquility; and the fame of the empreſs rang throughout the world.

How the King of Germany *came to court the Empreſs* Sabrina, *and how he obtained her in Marriage.*

IN the beginning of April, when the earth was cloathed in her ſummer livery, and every creature rejoiced in the pleaſures of a flouriſhing ſpring, Alexander, King of Germany, prepared a ſplendid equipage, and made a journey to the imperial city of Rome, to be an eye witneſs of the ſingular perfections of the empreſs; and, if poſſible to obtain her in marriage.

Arriving on the Roman frontiers, the empreſs honouring the character of ſo great a king, went to meet him in a chariot drawn by ſix milk-white ſteeds, with trappings of gold, attended by the chief lords and ladies of the court; and after mutual civilities conducted him to her palace; where no delight nor magnificence was wanting to divert his majeſty.

The king was ſoon charmed with the wit and beauty of the empreſs; yet, dreading a repulſe, he was afraid to reveal his paſſion; but on a time, aſſuming courage, he made a letter the meſſenger of his mind, in the following words—

'Incomparable princeſs!

IT is betwixt hope and fear that I addreſs myſelf to your imperial majeſty, in earneſt ſupplication that

that you will grant my requeſt. I acknowledge my heart captivated by your beauty, and my ſoul raviſhed by your wit; ſo that if your majeſty conſent not to be be my wife, and the glorious Queen of Germany, my life will ſoon become a victim to your diſdain. Your anſwer, dear madam will determine the fate of

Your majeſty's obedient ſervant,

GERMANY.

The empreſs, conſidering his great merit and power, ſoon complied with his requeſt, to his inexpreſſible joy.

The happy day fixed for the celebration of their nuptials being come, all the neighbouring princes ſent to congratulate the royal couple; the wedding dinner was kept with the utmoſt magnificence, the ſons of kings and princes waiting at table; which was ſtored with the greateſt variety the world could afford; a concert of melodious muſic raiſing their minds, adding to the general joy.

After the ceremony of the marriage was over, for the ſpace of ſeven years, never King and queen enjoyed more peace and unity. And what particularly added to their felicity was, two lovely boys, which Providence bleſſed them with in that term.

In the eighth year of their marriage, ſome commotions happening in Germany, fomented underhand by the King of Macedonia, King Alexander was obliged to go thither to make a timely proviſion againſt them; but unable to bear this ſeparation from his beloved empreſs, he conſtantly every morning uſed to aſcend the higheſt mountain near him, and fixing his eyes towards Rome, ſing to his lute the following lines in praiſe of their mutual love—

Oh!

Oh! dear Sabrina! *by heaven's protection,*
We liv'd, we lov'd, and firmly link'd affection,
And with the ſolemn power of an oath,
In preſence of the immortal gods, we both
Exchange our hearts, from which nought can diminiſh,
No fortune can diſſolve, no death can finiſh!
O when ſhall we embrace on Cupid's *bed,*
With roſes, violets and myrtles ſpread,
Beneath the cooler ſhade of Cypreſs *grove,*
Taſting the chaſte delights of lawful love,
When ev'ry bliſs enjoy, that may delight
Nature, or unreſtrained appetite.

In this manner did King Alexander employ his leiſure moments, during his abſence from his lovely Sabrina: But Fortune, conſtant in nothing but inconſtancy, ſoon changed ſides, and convinced this royal pair, who ſeemed to think themſelves perfectly happy in their mutual love, that there is no ſolid durable felicity in this world; as ſhall be manifeſted in the enſuing chapter.

How the King of Macedonia *proclaimed War againſt and overcame King* Alexander.

NO ſooner had King Alexander accommodated his German affairs, and arrived in the palace of his beloved Sabrina at Rome, but came a herald at arms from the King of Macedonia, to challenge him into the field. King Alexander acquainted the empreſs with it, ſo ſhe therefore drew a ſcheme, and perceived by the configuration of the planets, that this battle would be fatal, and that they ſhould be

be overthrown; and though ſhe would not tell the king ſo, yet ſhe adviſed him (if poſſible) to make peace with the King of Macedonia, but all in vain, for no terms but becoming his vaſſal would be admitted; whereupon King Alexander ſaid, That he would meet him in the plains of Theſſaly; and ſo taking a ſolemn farewel of his ſorrowful empreſs, and his two ſons, he ſoon arrived; and finding his

enemies aſſembled for battle, he made oration to encourage his ſoldiers, importing, That the King of Macedonia being the only motive to this war, they muſt conſider they fought for liberty and property. That if they loſt the day, their young men would be put to the ſword, their wives and daughters raviſhed before their faces, their cities, towns, and villages plundered and laid in aſhes; and laſtly, a perpetual brand of infamy and ſlavery fixed upon their nation and poſterity. On the other hand animating

mating them from motives of honour and glory, that the wealth of Macedonia would become their plunder, and from his own affection, favour, and honour, which he promised them who signalized themselves that day.

The soldiers unanimously answered by a mighty shout, and with great courage and bravery, They would stand by their prince to the last drop of blood; so marched towards the enemy, his majesty himself leading the van. The battle soon began, and was continued till night with great obstinacy, losing twelve thousand men on each side, and both armies renewed the fight the next morning with the utmost vigour, but the event proved fatal to King Alexander, for in two hours he was totally defeated, his general and his bravest men killed, and he forced to disguise himself for fear of being taken.

The king having with much difficulty made his escape to the frontiers of Rome, found there his empress, overwhelmed with grief at the dismal news of his ill success, and taking her in his arms, said, 'In the midst of my misfortunes I have one consolation, which infinitely over balances all my woes, and that is I again behold my dear Sabrina. Be comforted, incomparable lady,' continued he, 'none are exempted from the frowns of Fortune, and we must look on the afflictions of this life as the incentives to prepare us for a better in the world to come, where no ambitious enemy can invade or annoy our felicity.'

The virtuous empress, somewhat revived at these words, assumed her wonted courage, and assured the king, that she was ready to accompany him in the most abject condition, esteeming his conversation above the pomp of sovereignty, and the troublesome honour of a crown.

Mean

Mean while the numerous armies of Macedonia following their victory, soon over-ran all Germany and Italy, and being on their march to besiege the city of Rome, this royal pair and their two sons, with all things necessary for their household subsistence, retired into a remote island, attended by three tributary kings, and the seven famous mistresses, who having shared in their prosperity, would not leave them in their adversity; and there passed the rest of their days in a quiet and peaceful retirement from all the cares of human life; and on their tomb was engraved the following

EPITAPH.

Within this house of stone entombed lies,
The King of Germany, *surnamed the Wise,*
With the great Roman *empress, his dear wife,*
The greatest earthly blessing of his life;
Whom Macedonia's *king in wrongful fight*
Deprived of their countries, crowns, and right.
But now they do enjoy a heavenly crown,
That cannot fade, where tyrants ne'er shall come.

FINIS.

Choice NOVELS.

A pleaſant Story of the Unhappy Counterfeit, or Fortunate Gipſey.

A Gentleman who had formerly been a merchant in the city of London, and had acquired a conſiderable eſtate withdrew into the country; having ſpent his younger years in the noiſe and hurry of buſineſs, reſolved now to enjoy the fruits of his labours in quiet; and having a very fair houſe in the country, he inclined to fix there: but that he might not be out of all concern of buſineſs in the world, he ſtill kept ſome ventures abroad which he called the poors' ſtock. This gentleman at his death left an only child, a daughter, called Chriſtiana, to whom he left a very great fortune, and committed the care of her perſon, and management of her eſtate, to two young gentlemen, her guardians. She was now about eight years old, when ſhe deſired ſhe might go to ſee her uncle, a gentleman of fair reputation and good eſtate in the country, which they granted, and ſent her over, attended by two ſervants. After ſhe had been there a month, her uncle, who was a paſſionate man, catching her in a fault, threatened to whip her; ſhe farther provoking him with ſome ſcurvy reply, did ſo; at which time as ſhe cried out ſhe was heard to ſay, *O pray uncle, don't kill me*; which neither he nor any of the family took much notice of at that time. The next morning early ſhe ſtole out of the houſe, and after ſhe had wandered ſome hours, not knowing whither to go, met with a com-

ompany of gipſies, who took her up, made much of her, changing cloaths, and ſtaining her complection, brought her with them in a few days to London; and from whence went their rounds into the country. The uncle, miſſing his niece, the next day, made all poſſible enquiry after her, but could not receive any account of her. He next ſent to her guardians to know if ſhe was returned home, but meeting with no ſatisfaction, concluded that ſome young gentleman, who knew ſhe would be a great fortune, had ſtolen her. This the guardians believed too; till ſome of the neighbours at a goſſiping, were heard to ſay, that the night before the child was miſſing they obſerved ſhe cried out lamentably, *Pray uncle, don't kill me*; of which the guardians were informed, and conſidered it as an odd circumſtance, to happen juſt the night before; and aſked theſe goſſiping women, if they could ſafely take their oaths of it, and would do ſo before a magiſtrate; who ſaid, Yes, it was all true, and nothing but the truth. After ſome deliberation, they told the uncle what his neighbours ſaid, and how nearly it touched his reputation now, and might his life hereafter, if his niece was not found. Upon this, all the ponds and rivers were ſearched, and a conſiderable reward promiſed to any perſon that could give any account of her dead or alive. No news being heard of her, the neighbours began to grumble, and ſaid, that the guardians, and uncle had complotted to murder the child, and ſhare her eſtate. This being now grown a public diſcourſe in the country, to the great diſadvantage of their reputations, the guardians reſolved to proſecute the uncle as far as the law directed them. Accordingly they went, and ſent for him to a gentleman's houſe who was a juſtice of peace. Being all together, the

guardi-

guardians complained to the justice of this report, and desired him that he would take cognizance of it as far as the law required. The justice sent for the witnesses, who swore positively, that the immediate night before she was missing, they heard her cry out, with a lamentable voice, *Pray uncle, don't kill me.* Upon which, the justice bound the uncle in a recognizance of two thousand pounds, to appear at the next assizes, and the guardians in a bond of five hundred pound to prosecute the uncle. He, in his tedious search after his niece, Christiana, finds out a poor man's daughter in another country, who, both in age, features, and complexion, so much resembled her, that at first sight he thought she had been really the same. 'Now,' says he to himself, 'if I can get this girl of her parents, and dress her in the same habit Christiana wore, she will appear to be the very same; nor have I any other course but this to save my life.' He accordingly did so, and for a sum of money bought the girl of her poor relations, and diligently instructed her in the part she was to act. A day or two before the assizes, he gave out, he had, by great fortune, found his niece; brings her home to his house, with her real father and mother, who gave a satisfactory account to all persons, how accidentally they found her in a wood, almost starved. The girl owned how she stole away for fear her uncle should whip her again as he threatened. All which romance hung so well together, that the guardians believed the same, and nobody questioned the truth. At the assizes he was called to appear, which he accordingly did; the judge asked him for his niece Christiana, if she was found yet? 'Yes, my lord,' says the gentleman, 'she's in court.'—'Very well,' says the judge, 'Produce her, and bid the guardians appear.' Accordingly

ly they did, and the counterfeit Chriſtiana. 'Are you ſatisfied,' ſays the judge to the guardians, 'that this is your ward, the daughter of Mr. —— with whom you were left in truſt?'—'Yes, my lord,' ſaid the guardians. After a further account how ſhe was found, the judge ordered their recognizances ſhould be withdrawn, and the uncle diſcharged. It happened that Chriſtiana's nurſe, who was in court concerning other buſineſs, hearing what a buſtle had been made about her young miſtreſs, and that ſhe was found again, as they came out of the court, crowded to ſee her; and looking full upon her, believed it to be the ſame; but the girl not taking notice of her, ſhe cried out, 'O miſtreſs, don't you know me?' upon which ſhe preſently anſwered no. 'What,' ſays ſhe don't you know you old nurſe? I am ſure you are not the ſame then.' Upon this the girl was ſtartled: the guardians made a ſtop, and aſked her how ſhe came to forget her nurſe ſo ſoon: ſhe not giving a preſent anſwer, they began to ſuſpect ſomething, and brought her again into court, and the nurſe with her. The old woman ſaid, ſhe did believe ſhe had been the ſame at firſt, but upon review, ſhe much queſtioned it; but if it was her miſtreſs, ſhe had a ſcar upon the left arm, above the elbow. The judge ordered they would look upon her arm, which they did, and reported, there was no ſcar above, but one below the elbow; upon this it was generally believed ſhe was the ſame, and all things ſet right again. However, the judge ſeemed more diſſatisfied than before, and ordered the uncle to withdraw, examined the girl, and afterwards the man apart, who ſaid he found her in a wood; then he examined the woman; but the judge obſerved they all diſagreed in one point or other; at length by croſſing the account of the man

and

and wife, and considering that Christiana must needs have remembered her nurse, it not being a twelve, month since she saw her, and particularly knew her, the judge concluded it was a cheat, which the woman, for fear of punishment, first confessed, and then her husband owned it, and lastly the girl; they proved the receipt of so much money, at such a time, by several neighbours, who had known this girl five or six years together, and that she was looked upon as their own child; and always lived with them. Upon this discovery an indictment was preferred against the uncle for the murder of his niece Christiana; and he having no proof to clear himself, he was condemned to be hanged, and within a week after executed.

It fortuned about nine years after, at the summer assizes at Notingham, two young gentlemen, who were lately called to the bar, whereof the judge's son was one, walking out early one morning in the fields, they saw a whole covey of gipseys under a hedge; when they came near to them, two of them stepped out, and, in their cant, told them a great deal of good fortune by looking in their hands, as they pretended: upon which one of the gentlemen threw them a shilling, the other called them idle whores, and said they deserved to be whipped for public cheats; upon which one of them, a tall black girl, told him, he ought not to despise a gipsy, for he should marry one before he was six months older; at which the gentlemen fell a laughing.—When they came home, one of them missed his gold watch, the other had lost all his money. They began to be angry to be thus cheated, and getting a constable, very luckily met the two gipsies going another way; they charged them with the watch and money, which they as peremptorily denied:

upon

upon this the conſtable brought them along to the open court, which was then ſitting: upon examination they denied the fact, nor could they, upon ſearch, find either upon them. However the judge ordered them to be ſoundly whipped for vagrants.

As the conſtable was taking them away; the gentleman who was the judge's ſon, called out jocoſely to the conſtable, 'Pray favour the black woman, for ſhe tells me I ſhall marry a gipſey within theſe ſix months;' which his father over-hearing, called them back again, and aſked them how long they had pretended to tell fortunes; 'I thought,' ſaid the judge, all your trade had been picking of pockets.'—'No, and pleaſe you, my lord,' ſaid the black woman, my profeſſion is only telling of fortunes; I never underſtood nor practiſed ſuch unlawful arts;' at which the whole court laughed heartily. The judge then aſked, what country woman ſhe was; to which ſhe anſwered, ſhe thought Hertfordſhire; then he aſked, if ſhe was born a gipſey; ſhe ſaid, no, but ſhe was as good, for ſhe had been nine years apprentice to a gipſey; at which he aſked her, if ſhe had e'er a Chriſtian name. 'Yes, my lord,' ſaid ſhe, 'I think ſo, for my name is Chriſtiana.' The judge hearing the name Chriſtiana, recollected himſelf, and remembered the ſtory of the gentleman who was condemned for murdering his niece of that name. He then aſked her, if ever ſhe had been in Eſſex, or had any relations there: ſhe ſaid, not ſince ſhe was very young, which was at the time ſhe had met with the gipſies at firſt, and then ſhe had an uncle there, who uſed her very hardly, and ſo ſhe ran away from him, and was never there ſince, nor ever enquired after him. Upon this he concluded ſhe was the ſame perſon, and called the conſtable, and bid him carry them home to his own houſe, and entertain them there till the court was broke up.

The whole court at this began to wonder; nor did they ſpare telling the young gentleman, that for ought they knew, it might be his fortune to marry a gipſey, if this young woman ſhould prove to be a perſon of quality and eſtate; which fell out even ſo; for the aſſizes being over, the judge who had an eſtate in Hertfordſhire, and had known her father formerly, brought her up in his coach, and preſented her to the guardians; who owned her to be the ſame perſon, which the nurſe and all her ſurviving relations confirmed. At the ſame time his lordſhip, who knew her to be a great fortune, propoſed a match between his ſon and her, which ſhe frankly conſented to, and was preſently after ſolemnized.

A remarkable Story of the Gratitude of a reformed Whore.

A Gentleman in the heat of ſummer, walking alone in the fields, contemplating with himſelf, being extremely thirſty, ſtept into the firſt houſe that offered itſelf, and called for a cup of beer, ſeating himſelf in the firſt room next to the ſtreet.

He had not ſat long, before two or three young wenches came ſkittiſhly in and out of the room, and ſeeing him a man of faſhion, they thought to make a booty of him, for it proved a common bawdy houſe.

The youngeſt and handſomeſt of them intreated him not to be ſeen below, where every porter and common fellow came to drink but to take a more convenient and retired room. The young gentleman ſuſpected the place, yet being willing to ſee ſome faſhions, took her gentle proffer, and went up ſtairs; where they two being alone, (and a bed in the room) beer being brought up, ſhe began to offer to him more than common courteſy, being ſo far from

from modeſty, that ſhe almoſt proſtituted herſelf to him, which he apprehending, aſked her in plain terms, if theſe were not provocations to incline him to luſt, which ſhe as plainly confeſſed.

To which he replied, that he was willing to accept of her kind proffer; only for modeſty's ſake, he deſired her to ſhew him into a darker room; ſhe led him into ſeveral rooms, but ſtill he told her that none of theſe were dark enough: inſomuch that at laſt ſhe began to diſlike him, becauſe in all that time he had not made her one friendly proffer. At length ſhe brought him into a cloſe narrow room, with nothing but a loop hole for light, and told him, 'Sir, unleſs you purpoſe to go into the coal-hole, this is the darkeſt place in the houſe; How doth this pleaſe you?' To whom he anſwered, 'Unleſs, thou ſtrumpet, thou canſt bring me to a place, into which the eyes of Heaven cannot pierce and ſee me, thou canſt not perſuade me to an act ſo deteſtable, and hated by all good men; for, Cannot the eye of Heaven behold us here in our wickedneſs?—Or,' ſays he, 'art thou ſo irreligious to think divinity but a dream or fable!' Yet he bid her conſider her ſtate in this life, and what her beſt could be—a whore. The name odious, the profeſſion abominable, and that ſhe was a ſink of ſin and diſeaſes, that ſhe was a continual vaſſal to every conſtable and beadle, never certain of her lodging, but in Bridewell. To conclude, he read unto her ſuch a ſtrict lecture, that, from an impudent ſtrumpet, he ſoon wrought her to be a repentant convert; and ſhe appeared to him in her former ſimple and innocentious life; and proteſted with tears, that courſe of life was hateful to her, and had ſhe any friend or kinſman, that could propoſe her any means to relinquiſh that trade, which in her ſoul ſhe deteſted, ſhe would

would become a new woman, for from that hour she vowed chastity all her life.

Upon enquiry of her birth and name, he found he had formerly been acquainted with her father, who had now been sometime dead: but for his sake, and her apparent tears and seeming penitence, he told her, if it lay in him, he would dispose of her according to her wishes; and withal charged her, that if he sent unto her within two or three days, with money to acquit herself of the house, that she would attire herself as modestly as possibly she could, and instantly repair unto him, at his first sending; and this being agreed betwixt them, for that time they parted.

The gentleman, wondrous careful of his undertaking (because she was now his new creature) came to a kinswoman of his, afar off, and told her, there was a civil maid, a kinswoman of his, lately come out of the country, who wanted a service, whom if she pleased to entertain, it might prove a great good to her, and no less courtesy to him. This motion being accepted, she was sent for according to appointment, and entertained. Her modest behaviour and fair carriage, with her tender love and diligence about the children, won her, in a short time, the good opinion of her master, and a great affection from her mistress, and a general love from the whole household; insomuch that within less than a year, she was raised from a chambermaid to be a waiting gentlewomen, and the only bosom friend of her mistress; who falling sick, even to death, so much doated on her new servant, that she sent for her husband, and desired him, that if he thought of marriage after her decease, to make that woman his wife, and mother to his children.

The gentlewoman soon after dies, he is left a widower,

dower, and the charge of the whole house committed to our new convert, with the bringing up of his children; which she executed with such fidelity, that he casting a more curious eye upon her youth and beauty, and withall remembering his wife's last words, he contracted himself unto her, and they were soon after married. But before any of these last passages happened, I must remember you, that instantly upon the preferment of this young woman, the gentleman who brought her this fortune, adventured all his means upon a voyage, which miscarried, for the ship wherein he sailed, was taken by the Spaniards, and he almost a twelve-month kept a prisoner at Lisbon.

But at length being ransomed, he came for his country, but so poorly and dejected, that he was ashamed to shew himself to any of his friends; but walking up and down by owl-light, having scarcely a homely rag to cover him from nakedness, or hide him from shame. It happened that just upon his return, the old man died too, and left her possessed of eight hundred a year during the minority of the children; but the thirds howsoever; and withal, so great and good an opinion he had of her, that he made her his sole executrix. Now, just as she was following the hearse to the church (having divers suitors before her husband's body was scarce cold) this gentleman by chance coming by, like a picture of the prodigal, she, casting her eye aside, had espied him, and presently apprehended him to be the man he was, and whispering a servant in the ear, bid him fall in discourse with him, to enquire his name and his lodging, and so proceeded to the funeral, but in any case to speak nothing as from her. The servant fell off from the train, and did as he was commanded, and brought her true word how all things stood.

ſtood. The next morning by her appointment came a gen. man very early to his lodgings (ſhe having taught him his leſſon before-hand) who deſired to ſpeak with him, and firſt aſked his name, which tho' unwillingly he told him; the other proceeded, that if he was the ſame man he pretended, he had heard of his worth and noble qualities, and withall of his caſualties at ſea, and not willing that any gentleman ſhould groan beneath ſo great a burthen, told him, there was a hundred pounds, and bid him furniſh himſelf with apparel and other neceſſaries, and ſo was ready to take his leave. The other, in extaſy with ſo great a courteſy from a ſtranger, deſired to know what reaſon he had to be charitable, what hope he had of future ſatisfaction, or at leaſt to reſolve him what ſecurity he demanded; the other anſwered, that for the firſt, his courteſy was grounded upon his worth, his ſatisfaction was in his acknowledgement, and his ſecurity in that he knew him honeſt, and told him, ſome three days after he would call upon him, when he was habitted like himſelf, to intreat his farther acquaintance, and ſo preſently left him. He was troubled in his mind above wonder, to receive ſuch a bounty from a man unknown, when his kindred and familiar friends were aſhamed of him; yet took the benefit of the preſent occaſion, and ſuited himſelf according to his former, not preſent fortunes. When the gentleman came according to his promiſe, he ſeemed very glad to ſee this preſent alteration, and withal intreated him to walk abroad with him to dinner; he willingly aſſented, not once demanding whither.

In the mean time the late widow had provided a great feaſt to which ſhe had invited all her ſuitors, this gentleman whom ſhe had employed being one of the chief. Meat was upon the table, the gueſts ready

ready to sit down: now the last that came in were the two new friends; in came the widow to bid them all welcome. This new made up gentleman, ignorant of whatsoever had happened, demanded of his friend, if it was not such a woman, who briefly told him all; how she came a stranger to the house, and what a fortune by her demeanour she had in a short time purchased: that she was now a widow, and had such and such means left: and all or or most of these gentlemen (and himself among the rest) were suitors, and their hope was, this day she would make choice of a husband. Whatsoever he thought, he said nothing for the present. The widow's turn was to place every man according to his degree, or at least to her own fancy: this new gentleman was neglected, and the stools being furnished, left standing at the window; she only took place at the table's end, leaving her husband's chair empty; when suddenly starting up, 'Methinks,' said she, some one in this room might well be seated, for we have more guests than stools.' The gentleman at these words bit his lip, and was intreated to sit down by his friends; but says the widow, 'Is this a suitor to? No question some that either borrowed his cloaths, or engaged all his credit for this one new suit, in hopes to gain the widow: but women are now a-days grown more wise: by whose acquaintance came he here?'—'Mine,' answered his friend; then says she, 'Perhaps he wants a dinner, and hath no money to pay for his ordinary. Well, he may sit down among the rest; some of you there make him some small elbow room. These words made him wish himself again a prisoner in Lisbon, or any where but where he was: this was sport to the rest but torture to him, who much blamed her ingratitude: yet arming himself with patience, he sat down

silent,

ſilent with an ill ſtomach, eating as little as he ſpake: all were merry at the table, ſome of them making him their mirth, the rather to pleaſe her. A health went round to the widow's next huſband; all but him pledged it gladly, he enforcedly. At length riſing from her chair, 'Methinks,' ſays ſhe, 'we are all merry, only that gentleman at the lower end of the table is melancholy: but I know the reaſon, it is perhaps becauſe he is placed ſo low; but if that be his diſeaſe, I have for it a preſent remedy:' when walking to him where he ſat, ſhe deſired him to remove, for ſhe had another place for him. He intreating her not to torment him any farther, refuſed to riſe; but ſhe would needs enforce him, the reſt likewiſe perſuading, as wondering what farther ſport ſhe would make with him. 'Well,' ſaid he, 'I am yours to day, but will be my own ever hereafter;' and ſo being drawn by her to the upper end of the room, like a bear to the ſtake, where her huſband's chair ſtood empty. 'Now, ſir,' ſays ſhe, with a more ſerious countenance than before, 'my new huſband ſit here in my old huſband's chair, and bid theſe your gueſts welcome.' Still he fretted, and they laughed as before: then ſhe craving pardon for ſo abuſing his patience, openly proteſted, that this meeting was purely for his ſake, and to make them witneſſes of their preſent contract; for if he refuſed her to wife, ſhe vowed never to have any other huſband; acknowledging that all her fortunes, next to Divine Providence, came by his goodneſs, and that ſhe knew no better way to expreſs her gratitude, than to confer them on him by whom they firſt came. They were contracted, the ſuitors witneſſed, and they ſoon after married.

FINIS.